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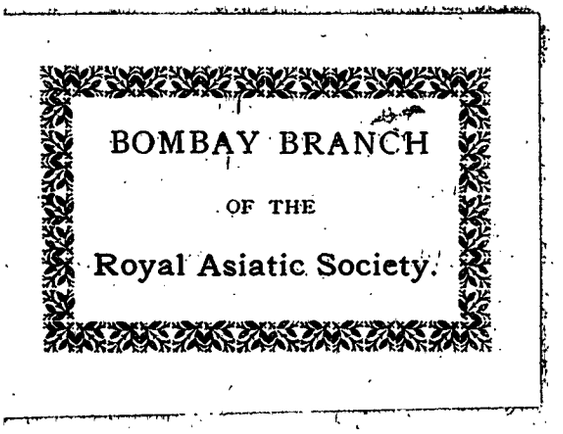

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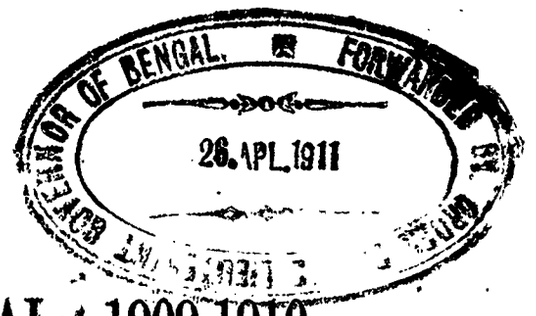

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1909-1910.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1909-1910.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DURING 1909-1910.

Head-quarters of Government.

THE head-quarters of Government were at Darjeeling from the 15th April to the 11th July, and again from the 2nd September to the 7th November. For the rest of the year the head-quarters were at Calcutta.

Lieutenant-Governor's tours.

2. In the beginning of April, before coming up to Darjeeling, Sir Edward Baker visited Purulia and Ranchi.

3. The usual monsoon tour commenced on the 11th August. His Honour went first to Monghyr by rail, where he laid the foundation stone of the water-works, and held a Darbar. From Monghyr the return journey was made down the Ganges on the "Rhotas" from which Bhagalpur, Azimganj, Nashipur, Murshidabad, Berhampur, and Plassey, were visited in turn. Calcutta was reached on the 21st August.

4. During the latter part of November and the beginning of December His Honour visited Jheria in order to see the mining area. Thence he journeyed to Gaya, Arrah and Buxar, returning to Calcutta *viâ* Bankipore where a halt was made for five days. At Arrah His Honour cut the first sod of the Arrah-Sassaram Light Railway.

5. In February, His Honour made a short tour in the Presidency division visiting Krishnagar, Jessore and Khulna, whence he returned to Calcutta by river through the Sundarbans.

STATES HAVING DIRECT POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

General condition.

6. The past year was one of progress and prosperity throughout the states.

Cooch Behar.

7. Under the orders of His Highness the Maharaja, a Legislative Council was constituted in 1909 to relieve the State Council of all legislative work. It consists of the members of the State Council and five non-official members representing different classes of the community. The Cooch Behar State Railway, formerly a narrow gauge light railway, was in process of conversion into the metre gauge.

Political States of Seraikela and Kharsawan.

8. The final report on the survey and settlement operations carried out in Seraikela and Kharsawan during the years 1903—08 was received by Government early in the year. The total cost of the operations was only Rs. 1,15,754, whereas the increase of revenue is nearly Rs. 55,967, due almost entirely to the extension of cultivation, as the rates of rent were left practically untouched. Rates were fixed also for land brought under cultivation during the currency of the present settlement. The proposals for settlement have received the approval of Government.

The Feudatory States of Orissa, Moharbhanj.

9. A draft agreement between the Maharaja of Moharbhanj and Messrs. B. Boroah & Co. for the extension of the Moharbhanj Light Railway is under the consideration of the Government of India. The proposed extension will open up a considerable tract of fertile country and make possible the exploitation of a wide area of valuable forest. A long standing boundary dispute between this state and the Zamindar of Dhalbhum was decided by a Boundary Commissioner appointed under the terms of the Maharaja's *sanad*.

Patna.

10. The late chief and hereditary Maharaja of the Patna State died on the morning of 4th February 1910. His eldest son has been recognised as his successor by Government, under the name and title of Maharaja Prithiraj Singh Deo.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Material condition.

11. It is satisfactory to record a general improvement in the material condition of the people, owing to the good outturn of the crops and the consequent fall in prices. The year opened with famine prevailing in one district and scarcity in several others, while prices everywhere ruled very high. An early and consistent monsoon relieved the situation, and with few exceptions produced excellent harvests throughout the province. Prices soon began to lessen, and though all classes and localities could not recover in one season from the previous series of bad years, there was a general return to prosperity. This was especially marked among the labouring classes in receipt of money wages, which, in spite of the cheapening of the staple foods, maintained their previous high level and even showed a tendency to rise further. The comparative plenty not only benefited the agricultural classes generally, but afforded much-needed relief to those in receipt of fixed pay, and induced a revival in trade, which brought some compensation to the mercantile community for the previous bad year.

Health.

12. The same causes were chiefly responsible for a marked change in the general health of the people, whose stamina had been so undermined by several years of scarcity as to leave them less able to resist disease. With the fall in prices the mortality from cholera, fever, dysentery and diarrhœa was greatly reduced, and the death-rate from all causes declined from 38·56 to 30·55 per mille.

FAMINE AND FLOODS.

Famine.

13. The causes and progress of the scarcity and famine mentioned in last year's summary are described in detail in the appropriate

chapter of this report. The early monsoon, combined with a free distribution of advances, enabled relief operations to be wound up much sooner than is usual, with a consequent saving of money. In fact, except in Darbhanga where the constant resort to relief measures necessitated by a succession of bad years has tended to pauperise the people, this stage of scarcity, like those preceding, was marked by the improved power of resistance and recovery manifested by the agricultural classes, which gives rise to the belief that they are learning, by emigration, and habits of saving to help themselves. A permanent advance in this respect is likely to follow the spread of the co-operative movement, improved knowledge of agriculture, and the demand for education to which they will give rise; and it is to be hoped that relief operations in times of scarcity will tend every year to have a narrower scope, and be of shorter duration.

Floods.

14. In August and September there were unusually high floods in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah, caused by exceptionally heavy rain, which the various rivers and channels proved unable to carry off. In consequence, the embankments guarding the Damodar, Rupnarain and other rivers were overtopped and breached in many places, and considerable damage was done to standing crops, but not to such an extent as to cause scarcity.

Khulna cyclone.

15. On 17th October a disastrous cyclone accompanied by a tidal wave visited the Presidency division and in particular the Khulna district. The storm struck the coast at 2 A. M. accompanied by a strong wind from the north-east. By 2 P.M. of the same day the wind had changed to the south-east and blew with increasing force for another twelve hours, attaining its utmost intensity between 7 P.M. and midnight. In some places rain fell in torrents, while in others there was little or none. The tidal wave was felt in the Khulna district only, where it rose in some places as much as ten feet above high tide level and caused very considerable loss of life both to human beings and cattle. The other districts affected were Jessore, 24-Parganas, Nadia and Murshidabad, the last named very slightly, while much damage to both life and property was done in Backergunge and Faridpur, the adjoining districts of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Loss of life and damage to property.

16. The number of deaths reported as due to the cyclone was 805, of which no fewer than 698 occurred in Khulna, while more than 80,000 cattle were destroyed. Over 2,000 country boats were sunk and much damage was done to the River Steam Navigation Company's steamers and to Government flats and launches, several of which were sunk. More than a million houses are said to have been wrecked, including many dispensaries, police-stations and other buildings belonging to Government, while it proved impossible to estimate the number of trees blown down. In all the loss of cattle, boats and houses amounted to nearly Rs. 70,00,000, of which one per cent. represents the damage to Government property. Another Rs. 25,00,000 is said to have been lost by the uprooting of fruit trees. Fortunately, the standing crops, which were almost perfect, were little injured, and thanks to this fact and the prosperity of the inhabitants of the division no measures of relief were necessary.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Revenue and cess.

17. There was an increase of Rs. 47,119 in the land revenue demand, and of Rs. 2,47,403 or over 3 per cent. in that for road and public works cesses. Owing to the good harvests, the land revenue collections were the best in the last five years and defaults were fewer than in 1908; but the collection of cess though better than last year is still capable of improvement.

The money-order system.

18. There was a considerable decrease in the number of revenue money-orders and the amount of money thus remitted; but rent money-orders and the remittances by them increased by 5 and 16 per cent. respectively. In addition to this, there was a satisfactory decline in the percentage of refusals by landlords.

SURVEYS.

Survey.

19. Owing to the completion of the Sundarbans survey, much less traverse survey was done than last year. A scheme for the compilation of standard maps was approved; and it is under consideration to bring out a special provincial edition showing village boundaries. This would be much more useful for administrative purposes than the present thana maps, which show very little topographical detail.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

Settlement.

20. Cadastral survey and settlement operations were in progress in sixteen districts. The rents of 201,459 tenants were settled and records for 4,234 square miles were finally published. The total area for which a record-of-rights has now been completed is 47,674 out of 115,819 square miles in Bengal. The progress of revision work in Cuttack and Balasore was more rapid than in 1908, and experiments in the maintenance of the record were carried out in the latter district.

Revision of the record-of-rights in Bihar.

21. In order to keep up to date the record-of-rights which has benefited both landlords and tenants in North Bihar, it has been decided that a revision shall be undertaken in each district as nearly as possible fifteen years after the final publication of the original record. This will entail the commencement of operations in Champaran in the cold weather of 1912-13, and proposals for the necessary staff have been submitted to the Government of India.

WASTE LANDS.

Leases of waste lands in the Sundarbans.

22. The proposal mentioned in last year's report to revert to some modification of the system of leases to large capitalists has been adopted.

The leases will be framed so as to safeguard the rights of the actual cultivators, to prevent unnecessary sub-infeudation and to secure the proper maintenance of embankments and sluices. In pursuance of this policy, it has been decided to lease out the Fraserganj Government estate to a capitalist. Satisfactory tenders have been received and it only remains to conclude the negotiations.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

Government Estates.

23. The number of estates under direct management was 961 with a current demand of 28 lakhs. Over one lakh was expended on sanitation and miscellaneous improvements and about half a lakh on education. Owing to the good harvests there was a considerable improvement in the general condition of the tenants.

WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

24. There was an increase of four in the number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards. The collection of rent and cesses due to the estates improved, but, as might be expected in the circumstances in which charge is often taken by Government, the balances of irrecoverable arrears are large and many of the estates are heavily in debt.

Loan to Tagore Raj Estate.

25. The mortgaged estates situated in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam have been placed under a separate manager responsible to that Government, while the Tagore settled estates and the outlying portions of the mortgaged estates in this province remain under the management of Mr. W. S. Milne, I.C.S. The interest on the loan has been paid up to date and a considerable reduction made in the principal, chiefly by the proceeds of the sales of isolated properties.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Relation of landlords and tenants.

26. Relations between landlords and tenants, with a few exceptions, appear to have been normal. The survey and settlement operations, which are being carried on throughout the province, while they disturb the patriarchal relations still existing in a very few estates and cause dissatisfaction to some of the landlords, who hope, by illegal methods, to force up their rents to the competition limit, are of real benefit to both classes as a whole—to the tenants, because they make illegal enhancement of rent and eviction from their holdings difficult, if not impossible, and to the landlords, because the collection of rent presents fewer difficulties than before, while all rent-suits are practically confined to the one issue whether the rent claimed has or has not been paid.

Rent law in Orissa.

27. Mr. S. L. Maddox, I.C.S., who was placed on special duty to enquire into the working of those sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which have already been extended to Orissa, reported that it would be inexpedient to extend the whole of the act to that division. He recommended that a special tenancy act should be framed embodying suitable provisions as to the status of holders of sub-tenures and resumed

revenue-free lands, the commutation of produce rents, landlords' privileged lands and other matters in which local conditions in Orissa are peculiar. A bill to give effect to his recommendations has been submitted for the approval of the Government of India.

Extension of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act to the district of Manbhum.

28. As foreshadowed in last year's report, the question whether the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, should or should not be extended to Manbhum, was discussed in conference with the landlords of that district. It was agreed that Act X (B.C.) of 1859 was defective and should be superseded; but a number of landlords preferred the introduction of the Bengal Tenancy Act. After a careful consideration of the objections put forward against it, Government decided that the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act was most suitable to the needs of the district, and the act was extended to Manbhum on the 16th December 1909.

Rules under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

29. The rules required by various sections of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, were published by Government under sub-section (2), section 266 of that act, within a period of two months from the date on which it came into force, and were re-issued during the year as required by that sub-section, with such modifications as practical experience shewed to be necessary.

Devolution of powers regarding suspensions and remissions of revenue and the grant and remission of agricultural loans.

30. The latest rules to regulate suspensions and remissions of land revenue, and the grant and remission of loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts were issued in 1907 and 1909, respectively. As they were drawn up after considerable discussion and gave wide powers to local officers and the Board of Revenue, the Lieutenant-Governor decided not to accept the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Decentralization that more powers should be delegated, at any rate until the working of the present rules had been under observation for a further period.

Bettiah disturbances.

31. Serious disturbances occurred towards the end of 1908 in the area leased by the Bettiah Raj Estate to four indigo factories in the Champaran district. A large force of police was drafted to the spot to restore order and eventually three hundred and ten persons were convicted of rioting and other offences and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. In August 1909 only fifty-three were still serving their sentences and all but six of these were released as an act of clemency. In consequence of an exhaustive enquiry held under the orders of Government, the Bihar Planters' Association has now modified the form of agreement taken from cultivators on lines approved by Government and has agreed to an advance in the rates to be paid for indigo in certain cases.

Indebtedness of tea-garden employes and other inhabitants of the district of Darjeeling.

32. In July 1909 a deputation from the Darjeeling and Terai Planters' Association with two Nepali gentlemen presented to the Lieutenant-Governor two memorials bringing to his notice the hopeless indebtedness of the sardars and coolies on tea estates and the hill people generally. This they alleged was due to the high rate of interest charged by money-lenders, and the extortionate methods by which it was computed, and they prayed that legislation might be undertaken to limit the rate and total amount of interest recoverable in the courts. As the

representations related mainly to employés of tea estates Mr. W. R. Gourlay, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, was deputed to visit the principal gardens. From his report it appeared that legislation was not advisable and the majority of planters themselves were not in favour of it; but that managers of gardens might do much to mitigate the evil by paying their coolies week by week at a daily rate, by retaining a competent legal adviser to defend them in the civil courts and by financing their sardars at a reasonable rate of interest. The memorialists were informed of these conclusions.

Condition of the Sonthals outside the Sonthal Parganas.

33. The report of Mr. McAlpin, who as described in last year's report was placed on special duty to enquire into the condition of Sonthals resident in Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore and North Balasore, established the fact that the position of this tribe and also of the Bhumijes in these districts was most unsatisfactory. Mr. McAlpin recommended that a special Act should be introduced to prevent the alienation of land and to amend the law of usury among aboriginals, and that among other measures for the amelioration of their condition, a survey and record-of-rights should be undertaken at once in an area of about 140 square miles in Birbhum, where there was serious discontent among the Sonthali raiyats. This last measure with the sanction of the Government of India was ordered forthwith, and it was decided to wait and see whether the facts collected during these proceedings would justify legislation on the lines proposed.

Sabai grass.

34. As the result of a memorial received in 1907, a special enquiry was held into the condition of the Paharias, a tribe dwelling in the hills round Rajmahal and Godda in the Sonthal Parganas, which form the main centre of the cultivation of a grass, called sabai, very largely used in the manufacture of paper. It was found that the Paharias, who are ignorant and improvident, had been practically ousted from their fields by the money-lenders of Sahebganj, who took the whole crop as it matured and gave them only so much money as was necessary for their bare subsistence. As it was established that the Paharias had been reduced to this state by the exaction of exorbitant rates of interest which they were too ignorant to resist, it was decided to free them from their incubus of debt by means of advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, and for the future to bring them into direct relations with the large contractors. This was effected by allowing the latter under proper safeguards to advance them the money necessary for the cultivation of the crop and by forming special depôts under Government supervision for the sale of the grass at which the loans should be recovered. An arrangement of this kind was made with the leading firm of contractors during 1909, and Government has reserved itself the right to dispose of the grass in future on the best terms for the Paharias.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Enlargement of the Legislative Council.

35. The year 1909-10 was marked by an important change in the constitution of the local legislative authority. For some time past, the Government of India, in consultation with the various Local Governments and Administrations, had been attempting to devise measures to satisfy the legitimate claims of the classes, constantly increasing with the growth of education, who aspired to take a larger part in shaping the policy of the Government. Eventually, it was decided that it was possible to give a much larger recognition than before to the elective principle, to dispense with the official majority in the provincial council, and to enhance the powers of the council, but that the only practicable method at present of securing an assembly reflecting the opinions of the whole community was by means of representation by classes and interests. To give effect to these decisions, the Indian Councils Act, 1909, was passed by Parliament and a new council was formed consisting of fifty members (since increased to fifty-three by the addition of the members of the Bengal Executive Council, who are *ex-officio* members of the Legislative Council). The constitution and powers of the council are described in detail in the appropriate chapter of this report. More than half the fifty members are elected, and they include representatives of all the important sections of the community. In addition to the power, already possessed by the council, of accepting, subject to the veto of the Governor-General in Council, or rejecting, bills submitted to it, every member may, within the limits of rules framed with the sanction of the Government of India, ask questions, move resolutions and divide the council on all matters of public interest, including finance. Such resolutions have the force of recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Though subjected to much hostile criticism, chiefly on the score that insufficient representation had been accorded to the educated classes, especially such as reside in or near Calcutta, these reforms were on the whole well received. The keenest interest was displayed in the elections, both by the candidates and by the electors, and the Lieutenant-Governor was able to claim, when the council assembled for the first time at Belvedere on the 4th January 1910, that the elections had been a marked and unmistakable success and that, whether regard was had to rank or social standing, to practical experience of affairs or to representative character, the new council might challenge comparison with any of its predecessors in Bengal.

Acts passed.

36. Four Acts (Nos. IV and V of 1909 and I and II of 1910) were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1909-10,

and two were passed a few days after the close of the year. The most important of these were the Bengal Excise Act and the Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Act. Each Act is described under the head "Course of Legislation", *post* in Part II of this Report.

POLICE.

Political crime.

37. Anarchical crime of the type noticed in last year's report recurred from time to time throughout the year under review. Information received by the police had tended to show that the political conspiracy, if only loosely organised, extended far beyond the little band arrested in the Maniktola garden, and the events of 1909 confirmed this impression. Several other similar groups came under notice whose energies were devoted to collecting funds by unlawful means and to terrorising their opponents. With the first object dacoities, of which eight in this province alone can certainly be traced to the movement, were committed, while, with a view to paralyse the efforts of Government to stamp out the conspiracy, two persons, Babu Ashutosh Biswas, Public Prosecutor at Alipore, and Deputy Superintendent Shamsul Alum, were murdered—the latter early in 1910—in or about the courts, while actively engaged in the prosecution of political offences. Besides this, bomb outrages continued to occur on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. As a whole, considering the timidity, apathy, and even passive opposition of various sections of the public, and their many other difficulties, the police obtained a fair measure of success in dealing with the situation. In both murder cases the culprits were brought to trial and executed, and the results obtained in charges of general conspiracy and gang crime that were brought into court, were very fairly satisfactory. There are already good grounds for believing that by means partly of successful prosecutions, and partly of excellent organisation and preventive action, the movement has been paralysed, at any rate for the present.

Additional Police.

38. In order to put an end to the outrages on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, it was found necessary to quarter additional police and plain clothes detectives in the area affected for a period of six months. Additional police were stationed also in certain villages in Jessore and Khulna in connection with the outbreak of political dacoities there and in part of the district of Midnapore to check political agitators who were intimidating dealers in foreign goods by burning or threatening to burn their houses and shops. At Cheramba in the Monghyr district, punitive police were imposed in order to control a section of the inhabitants who were habitual burglars, dacoits and *lathials*.

Service of processes through chaukidari establishment.

39. As stated in last year's report, the system of service by chaukidars of processes, other than processes for distraint and sale or for personal arrest, was subjected to a further trial in the districts of Hooghly, Balasore, Muzaffarpur and Puri, and reports on the working of the system were awaited.

Calcutta Police.

40. Full effect was given during the year to the beat system in Calcutta and its suburbs, and arrangements were made to hire the

additional accommodation necessary for quarters for the constables near the thanas. The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Law, 1910, underwent considerable discussion during the year, and after its close was passed by the newly enlarged Bengal Council with very little opposition, and received the sanction of the Governor-General in Council.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

41. The increase in the number of reported offences under the Indian Penal Code was maintained. It was most marked in the Presidency town and in the districts of Balasore and Puri. The number of reported offences under special and local laws was 16,323 in excess of the figures of 1908. The number of cases found to be false after trial or inquiry continued to decline. Unlike the previous year, there was a considerable increase in the number of criminal cases decided by magistrates in the Presidency town and a small decrease in the amount of work done by magistrates in the mufassal. In the Courts of Session, both appellate and sessions work decreased, the former sensibly, but revisional work was slightly heavier than in 1908. In the High Court, there was a considerable increase in revisional work, while under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 (XIV of 1908), two cases, involving fifteen persons, were committed to the Court for trial by special benches.

Offences against the State.

42. Fifty persons as compared with fifty-seven in 1908, were under trial for offences against the state, of whom twenty-four were convicted, and three others were prosecuted to conviction under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 (VI of 1908). Judgment in the appeal preferred by the nineteen accused persons in the Alipore conspiracy case was delivered by the High Court in November. The conviction of twelve was upheld, though some of the sentences were modified, one was acquitted and one died during the hearing of the appeal. The case of the remaining five was referred to a third judge, with the result that the conviction of three was reversed and that of two upheld with modified sentences.

JAILS.

General condition of prisoners.

43. The striking increase in the average daily population of the jails of Bengal mentioned in last year's report, was more than maintained in 1909. But numbers continued to rise only up till the month of July and admissions in the latter half of the year, probably owing to the return of prosperity, fell off to such an extent that, in spite of the high daily average for the year, the total number of persons admitted declined from 101,485 to 89,081. Eventually on 31st December there were only 15,647 prisoners in jail, a figure not much above the daily average of 1907. But though the strain is over for the present, every effort has to be made to provide more accommodation against another sudden rise in numbers, as well as to meet the normal increase from year to year. A new central jail at Alipore in which 1,390 prisoners can be lodged was opened at the close of the year; and the building of another large jail at Monghyr will, it is expected, be commenced

shortly. Pending its completion the old Presidency jail, which the new Alipore jail was designed to replace, is being kept open. In spite of the inevitable overcrowding caused by the abnormal expansion of 1908-1909, the death-rate for the present year fell from 31·1 per mille to 24·5, which compares favourably with the average of previous years.

Administration.

44. The Bengal Jail Code was thoroughly revised by Major Mulvany, I.M.S., and in it were included the rules recently issued by the Governor-General in Council under Regulation III of 1818 for the custody of State prisoners.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Calcutta High Court.

45. The number of original civil suits decided in 1909 was 1,082, leaving 1,101 undecided at the close of the year, which was 143 more than the number pending at its commencement. There were 352 suits pending over one year, an increase of 116 on the figures of the previous year. Of the suits decided, 190 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 290 were decreed after contest, 331 were decreed *ex parte*, and 146 were dismissed after contest.

Subordinate Civil Courts.

46. The cadre of the Indian Civil Service in Bengal was increased by the addition of an appointment of second grade District and Sessions Judge consequent upon the formation of a separate judge's jurisdiction for the districts of Sambalpur, Singhbhum and Manbhum. The new judge is styled the Manbhum-Sambalpur District and Sessions Judge. Two posts of Subordinate Judge also were added to the cadre of the judicial branch of the Provincial Civil Service.

Suits.

47. Unlike the previous year, the year under review was marked by a large increase in the institution of original suits in the subordinate civil courts and in spite of the fact that more suits were decided than in 1908, the number pending at the close of the year was 85,663 as against 74,659 in that year. The increase occurred in each class of suits, and was most marked in the districts of Patna, Cuttack and Midnapore. In six districts only, Birbhum, Hooghly, Burdwan, Shahabad, Darbhanga and Bankura, there were fewer suits instituted than in 1908. In the Calcutta Small Cause Court, 25,253 suits were decided, of which no fewer than 19,783 were uncontested.

Appeals and inspections.

48. The arrears of appeals in the courts subordinate to the High Court were greater than in any of the previous years since 1898. This was due to the falling off in the outturn of subordinate judges, as there was a marked increase in the number of appeals decided by District and Additional Judges. The number of courts inspected by District Judges was noticeably larger than in the preceding year.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

49. Except in the Tirhut division and a few scattered districts where the distress caused by previous bad harvests had been more acute than in other parts of the province and its effects more lasting, the number of documents registered showed a marked decrease, a sure indication of a return of agricultural prosperity. A natural consequence was a decrease in the income of the Registration Department which was more than counterbalanced by a diminution in the expenditure.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

Calcutta Municipality.

50. The Bill to provide for the improvement and expansion of Calcutta having been further revised in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, a copy of the revised Bill was submitted to that Government. The sanction of the Secretary of State to the introduction of the bill in the Bengal Legislative Council was received after the close of the year.

MARINE.

Port of Calcutta.

51. Although the average tonnage of vessels entering and leaving the Port of Calcutta was a little greater than last year, there was a slight falling off in numbers, which affected the pilotage receipts. There was a decrease also in the number of European hands shipped and discharged, but this was more than counterbalanced by a large increase in the shipments and discharges of natives of India.

Financial position.

52. The income of the Port Trust amounted to Rs. 1,18,36,518 and the expenditure Rs. 1,19,97,364. The small deficit was due to the inclusion of three charges of a special nature, viz., the re-construction of the northern jetty at the dock entrance and the removal of two wrecks, in current expenditure. The capital debt now amounts to Rs. 8,34,90,302, while the Commissioners hold properties of the value of Rs. 10,35,17,339. Full details of the financial position of the trust will be found in the body of the report.

Other ports.

53. The ports of Orissa for the first time showed a small surplus, due to the large increase in the export of rice from False Point.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Agency for Government consignments.

54. The Government of Bengal took over the administrative control of the Agency for Government consignments from the Government of India, Army Department, with effect from 1st April 1909. A revised scale of rates for the handling of stores is under consideration.

Bengal Steam Boilers Act, 1877.

55. The provisions of this Act were extended to the district of Singhbhum, with effect from the 1st August 1909.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture Department.

56. No new agricultural station was opened during the year. Special attention was directed to the cultivation of jute, sugarcane, rice and flax. The experiments conducted by the Belgian flax expert, under an agreement with the Bihar Planters' Association, give promise of great success. Every effort is being made to spread the knowledge of new crops and

improved methods, but the cultivators are naturally conservative and progress is slow.

Organization of an Agricultural Service in Bengal.

57. The question of the organization of an agricultural service in Bengal is still under the consideration of the Government of India. For the present, and until the work of the department has developed, it has been decided that a superior graded service is not required and that it will suffice to fix scales of pay for each officer now working and for those whom it is necessary to engage in the near future Proposals on this basis have been submitted to the Government of India since the close of the year.

Sericulture.

58. The work done under the control of the new committee has been satisfactory. Some progress has been made in the eradication of *pebrine*, the disease which was one of the chief causes of the decline of the silk industry; and the seed of the nurseries continues to grow in popularity.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

59. In spite of the fact that no effort has been made to expand into new areas, the number of societies and the capital possessed by them has increased by 25 and 90 per cent., respectively. While the two local unions founded last year and two more new unions of the same kind are working satisfactorily, the chief need at present is the help of voluntary workers, as, with a few honourable and conspicuous exceptions, men with influence in the districts continue apathetic. It is essential for the public to realise that the great benefits of co-operation will never be fully brought home to the people unless the movement becomes a national one.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

60. The distribution and amount of rainfall throughout 1909 was satisfactory. The monsoon was early and plentiful, while late rain in October ensured a good crop of winter rice and supplied moisture for the *rabi*, which was further benefited by showers in December and January. Taken as a whole, the *bhadoi* harvest was about normal, the winter rice a little above and the *rabi* a little below the average.

HORTICULTURE.

Creation of a Subordinate Horticultural Service.

61. A Subordinate Horticultural Service was instituted with the idea of training officers locally, who might relieve the members of the European Gardeners' Service of routine duties and, in time, qualify for some of the posts held by the latter. Four men have been selected since the close of the year, three of whom will eventually replace the three European gardeners now employed at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, and the Cinchona plantation near Darjeeling. The fourth will work as an assistant to the European gardener in charge of the Government Gardens, Calcutta.

FORESTS.

Denudation of Forest.

62. On the initiative of the Secretary of State and as the result of preliminary enquiries throughout the province, a committee was formed

during the cold weather of 1908-09 to examine on the spot the condition of the forests of Chota Nagpur, Orissa and the Feudatory States, to form some estimate of their influence on the retention of atmospheric and soil moisture and to determine as far as possible to what extent denudation of jungle is responsible for deterioration in the fertility of the soil and for the floods which, it was alleged, had latterly increased both in severity and frequency in the deltaic area. As a result of the recommendations of this committee it has been determined to refer the draft Bill which they framed with the object of conserving private forests to the various local officers concerned, in order to ascertain whether legislation on these lines is considered to be practicable and to what extent it would be acceptable to the public.

Forest conservancy in Sambalpur.

63. Owing to the depleted state of the village forest reserves in Sambalpur it was decided, under section 28 of the Forest Act, to declare all Government forest and waste lands in that district to be Protected Forests. With the previous sanction of the Government of India, rules under section 31 of the same Act were issued during the year, which, while providing for the management of the forests by the revenue officers, retained for the inhabitants of villages the enjoyment of all rights of user consistent with due provision for natural regeneration.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Industries and mines.

64. The outturn of jute increased from 1,065,900 bales to 1,329,400, while that of tea was somewhat less than last year. The most important manufacturing industry, the making up of jute in various forms, continued to expand, but cotton spinning remained stationary and the outturn of indigo again decreased substantially. In spite of the increased demand for sugar, the native industry is said to be feeling the competition of bounty-fed imports. Coal mining received a severe set back towards the end of 1908 and did not recover during 1909. Owing to the falling off in demand, stocks accumulated everywhere and the output of the mines was less by 9 per cent. than that of 1908. The output of manganese ore, chiefly owing to the expansion of the mines in the Gangpur State, was nearly three times as large as that of 1909.

WORKING OF THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

65. The number of factories open at the close of the year was 252, as against 223 at the end of 1908, and the average number of workmen employed daily rose from 302,222 to 309,680. Sanitary arrangements continue to improve throughout the province, and most factories in Bengal proper have now provided good cooly lines for their hands. As experience has shown the value of a filtered water-supply in the prevention of cholera, attempts are being made to induce all managers in their own interest to instal an approved pattern of filter.

Appointment of a certifying surgeon for mills near Calcutta.

66. As an experiment, a certifying surgeon was appointed in August last for twelve large mills near Calcutta. His inspections have been useful in checking the employment of children under age, and the questions of extending the local area under his supervision and of making his appointment permanent are under consideration.

TRADE.

Foreign trade.

67. The value of the sea-borne trade in merchandise in Bengal in 1909-10 was Rs. 116·94 crores, of which the share of Calcutta amounted to Rs. 116·51 crores, as against Rs. 110·64 crores and Rs. 110·48 crores, respectively, in 1908-09—an improvement in each case of over Rs. 6 crores, or nearly 5·7 per cent. These figures are still short of those of 1907-08 by nearly Rs. 6 crores, and they represent only a partial recovery from the stagnation of 1908-09.

Imports.

68. Imports into Calcutta were valued at Rs. 46·62 crores, an expansion of 5·4 per cent. Of the seven classes into which articles are grouped for statistical purposes (viz., I.—Animals living, II.—Articles of food and drink, III.—Metals and manufactures of metals, IV.—Chemicals, drugs, etc., V.—Oils, VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles, VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured), four classes (I, II, IV and VII) shared in this increase. Towards the year's total, yarns and textile fabrics, the leading group in class VII, which was responsible for the considerable increase of Rs. 3·72 crores, as in previous years contributed the largest sum. Metals and manufactures of metals, among which machinery was the only important article to show a falling off, come next with 22·4 per cent. of the total. Articles of food and drink hold the third place in point of value with 15·5 per cent., of which sugar, with a total of Rs. 5·02 crores, contributes 69·2 per cent. The other classes, namely, V, IV, VI and I, represent 2·9, 2·5, 0·9 and 0·3 per cent. respectively of the total value. Of all imports, 71 per cent. was received from the United Kingdom, against 69·2 per cent. in 1908-09. The shares of the other principal contributing countries were:—Java 9·7, the United States of America 3, Belgium 2·8, Germany 2·7, the Straits Settlements 2·5, Austria-Hungary 1·6, and Japan 1·5 per cent.

Exports.

69. The total value of exports from the province was Rs. 70·32 crores, an advance of Rs. 3·92 crores, or 5·9 per cent. Jute continued to be the dominant staple of the export trade, its contribution to the total being 42·9 per cent. Tea, hides and skins, opium, grain and pulse, oilseeds, lac and raw cotton, are other items the trade in each of which exceeded a crore of rupees; and all of these show increased values except lac, which, owing to a marked fall in prices, remained stationary, in spite of the fact that the amount shipped exceeded that of last year by 50 per cent. The United Kingdom was the best customer, taking 25·3 per. cent. of the exports; the United States held the second place with 16·4 per cent., and Germany was again third with 9·7 per cent.

Trans-frontier trade.

70. The value of the trans-frontier trade of Bengal in merchandise only was Rs. 314 lakhs, a decrease of 17 per cent. Of the entire trade of the year, some 90 per cent. was trade with Nepal, while the shares of Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan were 6, 4 and ·05 per cent., respectively. The total trade with Nepal fell from 336 lakhs to 282 lakhs. Imports were smaller than those of last year as a result of another adverse agricultural season. Exports also declined from 108 lakhs to 100 lakhs, cotton yarns and fabrics, metals, spices and tobacco being

chiefly responsible for the decrease. The total trade with Tibet shows a heavy fall due mainly to political uncertainties and a severe cattle epidemic. Raw wool, living animals, musk and yaks' tails continue to be the staple articles of import from that country. The chief exports were cotton and woollen piece-goods, precious stones, apparel, metals, tobacco and silk manufactures. Imports from Sikkim remained steady at 9 lakhs, while exports from Bengal were valued at 9¼ lakhs, as against 7½ lakhs in the previous year. The total trade with Bhutan amounted to Rs. 16,000 only.

Registration of frontier trade of Bengal.

71. Owing to certain remarks made by the committee on Indian trade statistics in 1905, a special officer was deputed to examine the present method of trade registration along the northern frontier of Bengal. As a result of his report, which was received in 1908, it has been decided to retain the present system in spite of its defects, as it is the best that can be devised under existing conditions, at an expense proportionate to its usefulness.

Coasting trade.

72. The progressive record of six years in the coasting trade was broken in the year under review, the decline being from Rs. 22,24 to Rs. 18,96 lakhs, or 14·7 per cent. Of the total trade of 18,96 lakhs, 51·3 per cent. represents trade with Burma, 11·9 per cent. with Madras, 27 per cent. with Bombay and Sind, 2·6 per cent. with Eastern Bengal and Assam and 2 per cent., with non-British ports. The small receipts of paddy and rice from Burma and of groundnuts from Madras deserve mention. Coal, which was the preponderating item in the export trade, gave way to jute manufactures.

Rail and river-borne trade.

73. The total value of the rail and river-borne trade of the province amounted to Rs. 162 crores, as against Rs. 164 crores in 1908-09. Imports into Bengal including Calcutta from other provinces were valued at Rs. 49·87 crores, as compared with Rs. 48·76 crores in the preceding year. Raw jute was again the leading staple of the import trade: hides and skins, tea, grain and pulse, oil-seeds, raw cotton and opium were the other important articles. Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces declined about 25 lakhs of rupees in value as compared with the previous year. The principal articles of export were cotton goods, metals, iron and steel, sugar, rice, husked and unhusked, and oils.

FISHERIES.

Administration.

74. Mr. A. Ahmed remained in charge of the enquiry up till the middle of January 1910, when control of the work was transferred to the Director of Agriculture, of whose department it is proposed that, following the example of most countries, Fishery shall form a permanent branch. Dr. Jenkins, the fishery expert, left for England about the same time, and Mr. Ahmed was engaged till the 1st of April in preparing a report on the course of the enquiry. This, together with the report made by Dr. Jenkins which is appended to it, is under the consideration of Government.

Deep sea fishing.

75. From the beginning of the year up to about the middle of December 1909, the steam trawler *Golden Crown* made eight voyages. It was then decided that as complete a survey of the resources of the Bay had been made as was justifiable or necessary in

present circumstances, and the vessel was put up for sale. In order to encourage the fish-curing industry, rules for the rebate of duty on salt used for that purpose have been published by Government, and by way of experiment a small quantity of salt was issued duty free to fishermen on the coast of Orissa.

Fresh water fisheries.

76. It has now been decided to concentrate attention on the fresh water and estuarine fisheries of the province. A few experiments made by Dr. Jenkins in and about the Sundarbans seem to show that the exploitation of these waters by modern scientific methods would be both profitable and easy. The problem of fish breeding in confinement, which must be solved before Government can prevent the present wasteful methods of stocking tanks and ponds, also demands early attention. For further enquiry in these directions, the two students sent to Europe and America, who have now returned, are available and it is probable that an expert from Europe will be employed to control and assist them in their investigations.

PUBLIC WORKS ESTABLISHMENT.

Organisation.

77. The appointment and promotion of Superintending Engineers within the province, which hitherto rested with the Government of India, was delegated to the Local Government with effect from 1st January 1911. As the changes in organization mentioned in last year's report have not proved acceptable to the members of the Provincial Service, the question of the pay and prospects of that service are again under the consideration of the Government of India. The system by which the candidate who stands first among the Sibpur College students who have taken the B. E. degree and gone through a year's practical course in the Public Works Department, is appointed on probation with the prospect of becoming an Assistant Engineer in this province, was modified in so far that in one out of every three years the appointment will be made by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Delegation of powers.

78. With the approval of the Government of India, the power was delegated to Executive Engineers to sanction all ordinary repair estimates, whether annual or periodical, within their budget allotments, subject to the reservation that estimates for residential buildings and proposals to reappropriate from a grant made for one building for the repair of another shall be referred to the Superintending Engineer for sanction.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial Works.

79. The principal buildings in course of construction for the Imperial Government were the new Commerce and Industry secretariat in Council House Street, Calcutta, and some new offices and vaults for the Paper Currency Office.

Provincial Works.

80. Of those undertaken from provincial funds, the two most important buildings finished were the Presidency Jail, Alipur, which was occupied by the civil authorities on 1st January 1910, and the Agricultural College, Sabour. In both cases all subsidiary buildings and staff quarters

were complete. Besides these, considerable additions and alterations were made to the premises of the old Duff College, Calcutta, to fit them for the head-quarters of the northern police division; a new boarding-house was constructed for the Calcutta Madrasah; the hostels and staff quarters at the Patna College and the new small-pox wards at the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, were completed; and a new hospital and dispensary were built at Kurseong.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The Indian Electricity Act, 1903.

81. A new license to supply electric energy in the coalfields situated in parts of the Burdwan and Manbhum districts was granted to the Bengal Coal Fields Power Company, Limited, in place of that granted to Messrs. Hoare, Miller & Co., of Calcutta in 1907. Permission also was given to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, to grant special rebates to large consumers of electrical energy.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

82. Permission was granted to Messrs. Martin & Co., to lay part of their proposed light railway from Gaya to Sherghati upon the Grand Trunk Road between Dhobi and Sherghati. The new High Level Tista Valley Road in the Darjeeling District was completed.

RAILWAYS.

Mileage.

83. The total mileage of railways in Bengal on the 31st of March 1910 was 4,437, out of which the Government of Bengal has some measure of control over only 231 miles of light railway constructed by private enterprise. In 1909-10, 26·32 miles of metre gauge and 26·12 miles of two and-a-half foot gauge rail were opened to traffic.

Surveys.

84. During the year, surveys were completed by the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for extensions from Darjeeling to Lebong and from Siliguri to the Teesta Bridge in the Darjeeling district, and from Siliguri to Kissenganj in the Purnea district; by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for a line from Mohuda station to the Bokharo Ramgarh coalfields; and by the Bengal and North-Western Railway for a metre gauge extension from Thawe to Tiwaripatti. Other surveys were being carried out by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for an extension from Ranchi to Palkote; and by the Bengal-Duars Railway for lines from Bagrakote to Sivok and from Sivok to Kalimpong.

Construction.

85. The most important work under construction was the Lower Ganges bridge at Sara, which was taken in hand during the year. Sanction was given also for the construction of a line from Samastipur to Roserah, as part of the Tirhut State Railway, of a light railway from Jessore to Jhenida and of a tramway from Arrah to Sasaram.

CANALS.

Irrigation—Productive Works.

86. The area irrigated from the Sone, Orissa and Midnapore Canals was 945,897 acres, or 55,915 acres less than last year. This was due

chiefly to the falling off in the area irrigated during the *rabi* season by the Sone Canals. The revenue from these canals which are used for navigation also and from the Hijli tidal canal which is used for navigation only was Rs. 26,79,265, or Rs. 87,037 more than that of 1908-09. Receipts on account of navigation and irrigation showed an almost equal increase, due in the latter case to the large area irrigated for *rabi* in the preceding year.

87. Of the two protective works, the Dhaka Canal, which has been practically completed, irrigated 5,627 acres only as compared with 13,513 acres in the preceding year. The revenue derived from all sources amounted to Rs. 13,544, or Rs. 13,605 less than that of 1908-09. Fair progress was made with the construction of the Tribeni Canal. Protective Works.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE.

88. Rs. 4,62,816 were spent on embankments and Rs. 3,10,011 on drainage works, respectively, during the year. Embankments and Drainage Works.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

89. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 13,18,14,510 and the charges to Rs. 2,30,64,655 against Rs. 12,53,80,355 and Rs. 2,51,70,123, respectively, in the preceding year. The increase in receipts was chiefly under the head of Opium, in spite of the decreased amount put on the market, owing to the high prices obtained at the sales, and partly under Customs, due to the revival of trade. The decrease in expenditure was also mainly under Opium and was due to payments to cultivators being smaller owing to the reduced outturn of the crop. Imperial Finance.

OPIUM.

90. The area under poppy cultivation in the Bengal opium agencies for the season 1909-10 was 574,171 bighas, viz., 169,012 in Bihar and 405,159 in Benares, against 165,720 and 448,706 bighas, respectively, in the previous year. Twenty-nine thousand chests of provision opium were manufactured during the season. These, with the 11,458 chests left over from 1908-09, bring the total number of chests available for sale during 1911 to 40,458. The number of chests fixed for sale during the calendar year 1911 is 2,620 in each month, of which 1,260 chests will be Bihar, and 1,360 chests Benares, opium. Cultivation and manufacture of opium and the number of chests fixed for sale.

91. In consequence of the restriction in the area under poppy cultivation, some divisional charges had been abolished, and the advancement of Assistant Opium Agents to the position of Sub-Deputy Opium Agents, which entitles them to more favourable leave rules, was retarded. In order to remove this hardship, the Secretary of State sanctioned the admission of officers of the Opium Department to the benefits of the Admission of officers of the Opium Department to the benefit of the European Service leave rules.

European Service leave rules, with effect from the commencement of their seventeenth year of service.

EXCISE.

Administrative changes.

92. Two important features of excise administration during the year were the enhancement of the duty on "foreign" liquor, whether manufactured in India or abroad, and the appointment of a local committee to give advice at the time of the excise settlements in Calcutta. It was decided also, as an experiment, to close all outstills in the Khondmals, as enquiry proved the existence of a genuine desire among the Khonds that liquor shops should not be licensed in the district, and the village headmen undertook to stop illicit distillation.

The new Excise Act, V of 1909.

93. The new Excise Act, V of 1909, which received the assent of the Governor-General in Council on the 31st August 1909, came into force with effect from the 1st December 1909. The Act deals with the main lines of excise policy, and the nature of the control to be exercised by Government, leaving it discretion to frame rules on points of detail. Rules and notifications for this purpose were published during the year.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial Finance.

94. The receipts and charges amounted to Rs. 5,82,09,000 and Rs. 5,51,32,000, respectively, as against Rs. 5,59,03,000 and Rs. 5,72,33,000 in 1908-09. In consequence, the opening balance of Rs. 58,44,000 was increased to Rs. 89,21,000. The growth in the receipts was chiefly under Land Revenue adjustments, due to increased grants from the Imperial Revenues for police reform and generally in aid of the provincial finances. The most noticeable decrease in expenditure was under Ports and Pilotage, and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department. Under the former head in 1908-09 a new pilot steamer was purchased, while no new vessel was acquired this year, and under the latter expenditure was curtailed in view of lack of funds.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

95. The total receipts of the various local funds amounted to Rs. 91,86,505, and the charges to Rs. 89,61,725, the closing balance being Rs. 29,72,317. One new fund, the District Chaukidari Reward Fund of Angul, was opened, while two others, the dispensary funds at Bargarh and Jharsagra in Sambalpur, were amalgamated with the local district fund.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES.

General results.

96. The valuation of gross rental for the purposes of assessment of cesses in the thirty districts in which they are levied amounted to Rs. 13,70,23,491; and the total cess demand was Rs. 89,80,710, of which Rs. 75,97,898 was collected.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births and deaths.

97. For the first time since 1904 the number of births was greater, and the number of deaths less, than in either of the two preceding years. The births rose from 36·09 to 37·79 and the deaths declined from 33·56 to 30·55 per mille—the lowest mortality recorded since 1899. These satisfactory returns may be ascribed in the main to good harvests and high wages, which improved the general vitality of the people, and helped to reduce the mortality from fever and bowel diseases. The enquiries which were initiated in order to test the accuracy of the causes to which death is attributed by the reporting agency, again showed that, in the area in which investigations were carried out, nearly forty per cent. of the diagnoses were wrong. These errors occur almost entirely in crediting deaths from other causes to "fever."

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Malaria Conference.

98. The report of the proceedings of the conference on malaria which met at Simla during the year under review was received towards the close of the year. As the outcome of the recommendations then made, a special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner has been appointed since the close of the year for malarial research, and steps are being taken to form a provincial Malaria Committee for the special consideration of problems relating to malaria in Bengal. The provincial committee will work in consultation with a central Scientific Committee to be appointed by the Government of India.

Investigation and preventive measures.

99. A description of the results of the enquiries regarding the prevalence of malaria, which were undertaken by Captain Forster, I.M.S., as mentioned last year, will be found in Chapter VI of this report. Anti-malarial operations were continued in the North Barrackpore Municipality, and nineteen Sub-Assistant Surgeons toured during the fever season through the more malarious districts treating patients and distributing quinine, of which the number of packets sold was nearly double that of last year.

EMIGRATION.

Colonial emigration.

100. Five emigration agencies only were at work in 1909, four on behalf of British colonies and one for Surinam. No requisition for emigrants was received from Natal. Over 8,000 emigrants were despatched, of whom 85 per cent. came from the United Provinces.

Inland Emigration.

101. Though it was decided, in view of the present condition of the tea industry, that it was not advisable to put an end at once to the supply of labour by licensed contractors under Chapter III of Act VI of 1901, further progress in that direction was made by the publication of a

notification closing the districts of Howrah and Sambalpur to this form of recruitment with effect from the 1st August 1910. The attempt made in 1908 to encourage genuine free recruitment through *bonâ fide* garden sardars by allowing them, under certain conditions, to forward unindentured emigrants without producing them before a Government registering officer, appears to have met with fair success. Further experience has made it possible to relax the more stringent of the rules fixing the responsibility of local agents for the acts of their sardars done without their knowledge; but others have been added making it incumbent on every sardar to furnish his principal with full particulars of every recruit, under pain of prosecution under section 174 of the act.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Calcutta Medical Institutions.

102. No new institution was opened in Calcutta during 1909, but the reconstruction of the small-pox wards for Indian patients at the Campbell Hospital was completed. The number of out-door patients treated continues to increase, and there was an advance of 3,097 or 5 per cent. in female cases. A virulent epidemic of small-pox occurred during the year to meet which temporary accommodation had to be erected.

Outbreak of *beri-beri* in Calcutta.

103. There were 236 cases of *beri-beri* or epidemic dropsy, as against 51 last year, and as the causes of the disease were unknown, it was arranged that the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, should undertake an investigation. Captain. E. D. W. Greig, I.M.S., an Assistant Director of the Institute, was deputed to conduct it, and Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar, M.A., M.D., a private practitioner, was associated with him in the capacity of a consultant. The final report of these officers had not been received at the close of the year.

Mufassal dispensaries.

104. The number of institutions rose from 572 to 582. The floating dispensary in Cuttack continued to do good work and another was opened on the Bhagirathi and Khari rivers by the District Board of Burdwan. As during last year, officers in charge of dispensaries were deputed to outlying markets, with satisfactory results. In spite of the improvement in the public health the number of in and out-patients treated increased by 7 and 11 per cent. respectively, a satisfactory indication of the growth of public appreciation of medical charities.

Improvement of the pay and prospects of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

105. An improvement in the pay and prospects of Civil Hospital Assistants was sanctioned by the Government of India. The new rates of pay, varying from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100, in place of the old rates of Rs. 25 to Rs. 70, were brought into force on the 1st April 1910. Among other concessions it was ordered that in future Civil Hospital Assistants should be styled "Sub-Assistant Surgeons."

Lunatic asylums.

106. There were 908 lunatics confined in asylums at the end of the year, or 43 more than in 1908. Their general health was good and there was a marked decline in the death-rate. Towards the close of the year the rules for the management of Government lunatic asylums and the care and custody of their inmates, were revised in accordance with the recommendation of a special committee appointed for the purpose.

SANITATION.

107. A number of drainage schemes and other sanitary improvements were in course of construction or under consideration during the year. The sanitary and medical precautions taken as usual at the big fairs and religious festivals throughout the province were peculiarly successful. At only one, the Car Festival at Puri, were there more than three or four casual cases of cholera, while at several of the large fairs, no deaths occurred at all from this cause. Sanitation in towns and rural areas.

108. A special enquiry was made by the Sanitary Department into the working of the septic tanks in the mills and factories along the banks of the Hooghly, and detailed instructions were issued to the different mill-owners to enable them to place their installations on a satisfactory footing. Hooghly septic tanks.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

109. With a view to the development of industrial and technical education, the Secretary of State sanctioned the creation of an appointment of Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutes in Bengal and appointed Dr. A. du Pré Denning to the post. Owing to the continued pressure of work in the Educational Department, the temporary post of Additional Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction was retained throughout the year. Administration.

110. Intimation was received from the Government of India that they were unable to make any contribution towards the establishment or maintenance of a residential Arts College at Ranchi; and as it was impossible to anticipate that any funds for this purpose would be available from provincial revenues in the near future, it was agreed by a large majority at a conference of those chiefly interested that the scheme must be indefinitely postponed, and that part of the money subscribed for hostels should be expended with the donors' consent in providing residential hostels at the Presidency, Patna and Cuttack Colleges and at the Calcutta Madrasa. Residential Arts College.

111. A Government Law College was established at Patna with a staff consisting of a whole-time principal and four part-time lecturers, and a governing body, on which the staff is represented. Appointments were made also to the newly constituted governing bodies of Government colleges mentioned in last year's report. The governing body of the Presidency College was entrusted with large powers in respect of appointments, and a sum of Rs. 48,000 was placed at its disposal for the improvement of the college. Secondary Education.

It was decided to continue for another three years the scheme known as "the Calcutta Messes Scheme" by which Government undertakes the entire financial responsibility for houses hired as messes or hostels for students in Calcutta and in certain places in the mufassal, while the university and mufassal colleges recover rent at fixed charges from the

students; but the Director of Public Instruction was informed that the scheme should be made self-supporting as soon as possible. Other noticeable measures in connection with secondary education were the opening of a special class to teach dyeing and the chemistry of dyeing at Sibpur College, the reservation of four out of the six law scholarships open to graduates of the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, and tenable either at the University Law College, Calcutta, or the Government Law College, Bankipore, for Uriyas exclusively, and the establishment of six special scholarships ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per mensem for Uriya students who join the apprentice or engineer department of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College.

Muhammadan, Education.

112. Various means were taken to encourage and improve education among Muhammadans. The teaching staff of the Arabic department of the Calcutta Madrasa was reorganised, and the construction of a new hostel capable of accommodating about 150 boarders was approved; a title examination was introduced for advanced students; revised regulations were framed for the Madrasa central examinations; and special inspecting officers for Muhammadan institutions were appointed throughout the province.

Schools.

113. A revised syllabus for studies in middle and upper primary schools was published, and it was decided that while the teachers manual and the science readers should be prepared at the expense of Government, the production of the other books should be left to private enterprise. The training school for female teachers established at Calcutta in 1898 has not proved a success, but it was determined in the hope of improvement to retain it at any rate up till 31st March 1911. In consequence of certain objections, the introduction of the new code of regulations for European schools was suspended pending further consideration by Government. A new account system was also devised for these schools, and introduced with effect from the 1st April 1910.

Weaving school at Sambalpur.

114. A school was established at Sambalpur as an experiment for one year in order to instruct the Gonds, an aboriginal tribe, in the art of weaving with the fly shuttle loom, in the hope of redeeming them from their criminal habits.

Miscellaneous.

115. The number of holidays in Government colleges and schools was fixed at 165 and 75 days a year, respectively. A long-felt want was supplied by the formation of a committee in Bengal to advise and assist Indian students proceeding to England, in communication with the Central Bureau and Advisory Committee for Indian students established there.

REFORMATORY SCHOOL.

Reformatory School.

116. The board of management of the school was dissolved and the administration placed in the hands of the Superintendent with a committee of visitors to advise him. The number of boys admitted rose to 134, an increase of 9. Discipline was not satisfactory and there was a marked rise in the number of punishments awarded. No deaths occurred, but the admissions to hospital were nearly double those of last year. As this is ascribed to bad drinking water, steps have been taken to improve the supply. Enquiry now shows that nearly

half the boys discharged from the school follow the occupations to which they are trained and that about 70 per cent. of them are leading honest lives.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Publications.

117. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1909 was 3,837, as against 3,417 and 2,995 in the two preceding years. Although the proportion of learned and useful literature continues to increase, and the range of subjects which appear to appeal to authors and the public widens from year to year, the bulk of the publications was still concerned with religious matters. Books and magazines devoted or open to political discussion continued unfriendly to Government.

Subjects treated.

118. In almost all the Indian-owned newspapers, whether English or vernacular published in Bengal, the main interest centred in politics or in information out of which a political moral could be drawn. With certain exceptions, the general tone of the press, though moderated by legislation and prosecutions for sedition, remained hostile and suspicious. Three newspapers, the *Sandhya*, *Sonar Bharat* and the *Probhat* and one periodical, the *Pallichitra*, were prosecuted under the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act of 1908 and in every case the printing press was declared confiscated by the Magistrate; but the order against the *Pallichitra* was set aside on appeal by the High Court. The editor and printer of the *Pallichitra* were twice convicted by the District Magistrate of Khulna, once under section 124A and once under section 153A, Indian Penal Code. In the former case the alleged author of the offending article who was also convicted, was acquitted by the High Court on appeal on the ground that the authorship was not proved. Other proceedings under section 124A, Indian Penal Code, were taken in respect of a newspaper, the *Hitabadi*, and five books. All were successful, but in one case the prosecution was withdrawn on the tender of an apology by the accused and in two others in similar circumstances only nominal fines were inflicted.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Rules of the Christian Burial Board.

119. After preliminary publication in order to invite criticism, revised rules were issued under section 8 of the Calcutta Burial Boards Act, 1881 (Bengal Act V of 1881). The general object of the alterations was to bring the old rules into conformity with sanitary requirements and to enforce regularity and method in the arrangement of grave spaces.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Bengal Veterinary College.

120. The condition of the Bengal Veterinary College continues to be satisfactory. The conduct and general health of the students was good; and the percentage of passes obtained in the final examination was 86·4.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

121. The Glanders and Farcy Act as usual worked smoothly. In August the Government of India approved a proposal that compensation should be paid to owners up to a maximum of Rs. 50 for each horse destroyed under the provisions of the act.

Civil Veterinary Department.

122. There are now 62 Veterinary Assistants (22 stationary and 40 itinerant) and one Inspector in charge of each of the five circles into which the province has been divided. There was a considerable falling off in the number of patients admitted to dispensaries, a fact which shows that they are not yet appreciated as they should be.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, CALCUTTA.

Zoological Garden.

123. As the financial position of the garden was good, it was decided, at the instance of the Calcutta Corporation, to make one free day a month, a concession of which no fewer than 25,000 people availed themselves during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Hooghly Imambara.

124. On the retirement of Saiyid Ashrafuddin Ahmad, Matwali of the Hooghly Imambara, in November 1908, Government granted him a pension and appointed a successor, namely, his son, Saiyid Ali Nawab. The authority of Government to make the appointment was subsequently disputed. On this point legal opinion was taken, which showed that since the passing of Act XX of 1863 and the constitution of a committee under that act, the jurisdiction of Government in the matter was not complete. Accordingly, the orders passed in 1908 were declared to be cancelled.

Census.

125. The usual preliminary instructions were issued to district officers warning them to make early preparations for the census of March 1911. Special arrangements were found to be necessary in Sambalpur, where it was decided to use the subordinate revenue officers as the supervising agency.

Improvement of pay of Ministerial officers.

126. Orders were issued during the year giving effect to the recommendations of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee. This committee was appointed in 1905, at the instance of the Government of India, to consider in detail certain proposals made by the Government of Bengal to improve the pay and position of ministerial officers. In their report, which was submitted about the middle of 1906, they proposed to divide all establishments into upper and lower divisions, distinct for the purposes of appointment and promotion, to substitute a graded service for the old system of periodic increments, to raise the general rates of pay and to abolish apprentices. Their proposals which involved an extra annual expenditure of Rs. 5,32,000 were accepted, in the main, by the local Government and sanctioned by the Secretary of State in May 1909.

Curtailment and reduction of periodical reports and returns.

127. In accordance with the suggestion of the Royal Commission on Decentralization that a periodical examination of the list of reports and returns required by the local Government or authorities subordinate to it might be made, a special officer was appointed for this purpose. His proposals were submitted after the close of the year.

PART II

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1909-1910..

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MAP.

Map of Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1909-1910.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.
HISTORICAL SUMMARY.
FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.
CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES, SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENTS.
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See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 1—169, FOR 1905-1906, PART II, PAGE 1, AND FOR 1908-1809, PART II, PAGE 1.

Changes in the Administration.

THERE were no changes in the administration of importance.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the State for 1909-10.]

[Area, 1,307 square miles; chief products, rice, jute and tobacco; population, 566,979; revenue, Rs. 26,40,461; military force, 294 men and four guns. No change in the ruling chief since last year. Family of Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar; heir-apparent, Maharaj Kumar Raj Rajendra Narayan.]

The Legislative Council.

2. During the year the newly enlarged Legislative Council met for the first time, and one more meeting was held subsequently.

Executive.

3. On the executive side, the State Council held 38 meetings, against 43 in the previous year, at 12 of which His Highness the Maharaja presided. The work of the council is divided into the three following heads:—

I.—General.
II.—Financial.
III.—Cooch Behar State Railway and Miscellaneous.

Judicial.

4. The Council held 32 meetings on its judicial side, against 26 of the previous year, and disposed of 41 appeals and motions, both civil and criminal.

Legislative.

5. The Cooch Behar Tenancy Bill, which has been under the consideration of the Council for some time, was referred to a select committee.

State Railway.

6. The work of converting the Cooch Behar State Railway into a metre-gauge line has been undertaken by the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities at an estimated cost of four lakhs of rupees and a sum of one lakh and fifty thousand rupees was paid by the state during the year towards the cost of this work. A provision of Rs. 23,000 has been made in the budget for 1910-11 under this head, which will complete the estimated amount of 4 lakhs.

Cultivation and manufacture of tobacco.

7. The area under tobacco was 75 bighas, as in the previous year. The Yellow Prior and Bright Yellow tobaccos gave good results in fire curing, but owing to the impoverishment of the land and the late plantation of certain fields the yield of tobacco was only 130 maunds.

Crops and condition of the people.

8. The rainfall of the year was normal and its distribution was favourable for late rice but not for early rice, jute and tobacco. The price of common rice sank to Rs. 3 a maund, and in some places to Rs. 2-8 in the latter part of the year. The fall in the price of the chief article of food served to bring down the price of vegetables. The jute trade was very dull and the rate varied from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5-8. In places where jute is an important crop the people suffered a great deal, though they were partly compensated by a good crop of late rice. The cultivation of jute has been decreasing; and some jute firms in the state had to close down.

The year was good for persons with small incomes, owing to the fall in the price of rice. In tracts where tobacco is extensively grown the condition of the people was very good, as the price of tobacco rose high, ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20.

Financial.

9. The total revenue amounted to Rs. 26,40,461, against Rs. 25,00,925 in the previous year, showing a net increase of Rs. 1,39,536. The total expenditure was Rs. 24,54,074 as compared with Rs. 24,64,933 during 1908-09, representing a decrease of Rs. 10,859. The closing balance, inclusive of deposits and Government money amounting to Rs. 3,88,955, was Rs. 13,18,242, showing a net increase of Rs. 45,105.

Criminal Justice.

10. The total number of cases reported fell from 3,466 to 3,286 during the year. The decrease of 180 cases occurred chiefly under the head minor offences against property, and under special and local laws. The percentage of convictions to the total number of cognizable and non-cognizable cases tried also fell from 73·05 and 81·17 to 72·5 and 72·57, respectively.

Education.

11. The condition of the three Subdivisional Higher English Schools was considerably improved during the year to meet the increased demands of the University. Primary education made good progress. There were 327 Primary and Secondary Schools, and the number of pupils attending them rose from 11,609 to 11,711. Omitting the Sunity College the total number of institutions for the education of girls was 15, and the total number of girls under instruction, exclusive of those borne on the rolls of that college, was 302, against 292 in the preceding year. The Sunity College had 145 pupils on its books. The students of the Victoria College did fairly well at the various University examinations at which they appeared.

Public health.

12. The year was a comparatively healthy one in the State, and the fact that the attendance of patients at most of the hospitals was below the average, goes to support this view. There was a severe outbreak of cholera early in the year, and the number of cases of small-pox also was comparatively high in spite of a marked increase in the number of vaccinations. An elaborate anti-cholera campaign was organized on the initiation of His Highness, with a view to prevent the havoc caused by the disease when it breaks out in epidemic form in the interior. Some of the principal preventive measures to be adopted are the supply of good drinking water by sinking bricked wells throughout the State on the grant-in-aid system, an undertaking in which the landlords of the State will be encouraged to co-operate.

POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

[Report on these States for 1909-10 by the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.]

[Two States:—(1) Seraikela; area, 449 square miles; population, 104,539; total receipts, Rs. 1,07,029; Chief—Raja Udit Narayan Singh Deo Bahadur, age 61. (2) Kharsawan; area, 153 square miles; population, 36,540; total receipts, Rs. 47,569. The Chief Kumar Sriram Chandra Singh Deo aged 19, ranks as a Thakur and is a student at the Rajkumar College at Raipur. The States pay no tribute and have no military force. They are under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum. Both Chiefs are cadets of the Porahat family.]

Administration.

13. The Seraikela State was administered by its Chief, while the Kharsawan State, owing to the minority of the Chief, continued under Government management.

14. The total receipts from all sources in the Seraikela State fell from Rs. 1,27,731 to Rs. 1,19,514 and in the Kharsawan State rose from Rs. 46,772 to Rs. 61,158. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of land revenue collections in Seraikela, while in Kharsawan there was a marked increase. The receipts from excise increased in both the states, owing principally to the prosperity brought by two good harvests and to the cheapness of *mâhua* during the year. Revenue.

15. The agricultural season was, on the whole, favourable in both the states. The outturn of the rice crop was reported in Seraikela to be 88 per cent. and in Kharsawan 100 per cent. of the normal. The material condition of the people was generally good. Material condition of the people.

16. The public health was fair, though there was an increase in the number of patients attending both the State dispensaries. This is said to be due to the growing popularity of these institutions rather than to the unhealthiness of the year. There was a large increase in vaccination operations owing to the appearance of small-pox. Public health.

17. There was a decrease in the jail population in the Seraikela State and an increase in the Kharsawan State. The health of the prisoners in both states was good. Jails.

18. In Seraikela, the number of primary schools and of the pupils attending both the middle English and primary schools decreased. In Kharsawan, the number of schools continued the same, though there was a decrease of six pupils. Education.

19. There was a decrease in both the states in the number of persons brought to trial during the year. This is reported to be due to good harvests.

TRIBUTARY AND FEUDATORY STATES OF ORISSA.

[Report on the States for 1909-10 by the Commissioner of Orissa. Number of States, 24; aggregate area, 28,046 square miles; population, 3,173,395; gross revenue, Rs. 43,76,782.]

20. The states of Bonai, Hindol, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Nayagarh and Rairakhol continued under Government management. The Feudatory Chief of Patna, Maharaja Dalganjan Singh Deo, having died during the year, his eldest son succeeded him under the name and title of Maharaja Prithiraj Singh Deo. The Chiefs continued to pay attention to their land revenue administration which is improving everywhere. The question of the suitability of *kist* dates was carefully considered by the Chiefs in consultation with the Political Agent, and both the dates and incidence of the *kists* were changed where necessary to suit the convenience of the cultivators. The settlement operations in the Gangpur State made good progress. Administration, land revenue and finance.

21. The year was one of general prosperity. The rice harvest was excellent in almost all the states and in some bumper crops, both of early and late rice, were reaped. The price of rice fell everywhere and in some of the states was as low as 24 seers to the rupee. In consequence there was great activity in trade. Material condition of the people.

22. The public health was good. The improvement in the spread and popularity of vaccination reported during the last four years was more than maintained during the year and the progress made all round is encouraging. There are dispensaries, mostly well equipped, in all the states except Tigiria, where there is only an Ayurvedic Hall, while in Gangpur a joint male and female dispensary of the most approved modern type was completed during the year. Public health.

23. The total expenditure on public works amounted to Rs. 9,34,521, against Rs. 8,26,701 in 1908-09, representing an increase of over 13 per cent. on the expenditure of the previous year. The steady increase in the expenditure on public works which include public buildings, lines of communication and schemes of irrigation, is a satisfactory feature in the administration of the states. In Mohurbhanj two large irrigation schemes are in progress, one of which is nearly completed. In Gangpur a fine girder bridge is being erected at considerable expense across the Sapai *nullah* on the main road from Sundergarh to Jharsuguda, a work of great public utility. Public Works.

24. Education continued to make satisfactory progress throughout the states. There has been a steady rise in the number of schools and scholars Education.

reading in them during the last three years. The advance in the spread of female education is noticeable, and every state now has separate schools for this purpose. The total expenditure incurred on education by the states exclusive of contributions from Government was Rs. 2,08,224, against Rs. 2,11,648 in the previous year.

Forests. 25. The total income derived from forests amounted to Rs. 6,88,183, against Rs. 6,46,918 in the last year, showing an increase of Rs. 41,265. Forest reservation and demarcation made good progress during the year in some of the states. Since the close of the year an experienced forest officer has been appointed to look after the forests of the states under Government management, and a further improvement in the forest conservancy of the states may be expected.

Excise. 26. The total excise revenue of the states rose from Rs. 3,90,626 to Rs. 4,11,796, showing an increase of Rs. 21,170. The smuggling of Jeypore *ganja* into the states is reported to be frequent, but it is hoped that the measures recently adopted will prove successful in putting a stop to this practice.

Jails. 27. The general administration of the jails has been good, and useful improvements are being carried out. The jails were free from overcrowding, and transfers of prisoners to British jails were very few and only for special reasons. The construction of new jail buildings in Khondpara, Hindol and Nilgiri is in progress, and will shortly be taken in hand in Tigiria. With the completion of these four jails all the states will be provided with excellent accommodation on modern lines for their prisoners. Dispensaries with sick-wards are maintained everywhere.

Police and Crime. 28. There was a decrease in the number of cognizable cases by 2,076, mainly under the heads "petty theft" and "burglary," which is reported to be due partly to the improvement in the police administration throughout the states and partly to the good harvest. The decrease in crime was general in all the states with the exception of Daspalla, Khondpara, Nayagarh, Nilgiri and Patna. The year has been marked by an absence of violent or heinous crime throughout the states with the exception of Kalahandi and Moharbhanj, where 11 and 7 dacoity cases, respectively, are reported to have occurred. The measures taken to deal with gang dacoity cases in some of the states have proved entirely successful. The number of trained officers in the police force increases yearly. The local men sent last year for training as Sub-Inspectors to the Police Training College at Ranchi, passed their examinations successfully and as the Chiefs are ready to send more men, it is hoped that the police will gradually improve.

Administration of Justice. 29. The administration of criminal justice has, on the whole, been prompt, though the standard reached in previous years in the disposal of police work has not been maintained in the case of all the states. The punishments inflicted by the courts have been both adequate and suitable. The total number of civil suits for disposal increased from 10,904 to 14,581. This increase was almost general and is said to have been due to the universal prosperity which gave creditors an opportunity of realizing outstanding claims. There was a falling off in the average duration of contested suits in most of the states, and generally the administration of civil justice continues to improve.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration, 1909-10.]

General. 30. During the year there was a general improvement in the material condition of the people who had suffered from the high prices caused by three successive bad years. This was the result of better harvests due in their turn to a rainfall everywhere above the average and in many places double that of 1908-09. The cutting of the crops caused a material fall in prices, which as the increased demand for labour served to keep wages at a high level, gave confidence to the people and caused a noticeable decline in emigration. The improvement in the condition of the labouring classes showed itself in an increased demand for petty luxuries.

31. In the Burdwan division wages remained as high as in the preceding year with a still upward tendency. In the Presidency division also the level was very high. In the 24-Parganas there was a great demand for labour in the mills and factories, in the Sundarbans and on railway and drainage works, while in Khulna and Jessore the damage done by the cyclone caused a marked rise in wages. In the Patna division although there was no general change in labourers' wages, the tendency was decidedly in an upward direction. This was due partly to the general rise in the standard of comfort and the consequent struggle for higher wages, and partly to the high prices of food-grains in the three preceding years. In the Tirhut division the agricultural labourers are paid at fixed rates in kind, and the value of their wages fell with the fall in the price of grain, but the wages of other labouring classes generally showed no appreciable alteration during the year. In the Bhagalpur division rates of wages of skilled and unskilled labour remained almost the same as in the preceding year. The high rates in the Pakour and Rajmahal subdivisions of the Sonthal Parganas were maintained by the demand from the lac factories and ballast concerns. In the Purnea district the wages of day-labourers rose to as much as eight annas a day during the jute season. In the Orissa division, they remained stationary in all the districts except Cuttack, where they fell owing to good harvests. In Sambalpur, agricultural labourers are generally paid in kind and the value of their wages fluctuates with the rise and fall in the price of paddy, but cash wages remained unchanged. In the Chota Nagpur division wages remained stationary in all the districts except Singhbhum, where there was an upward tendency due to the large demand for labour on the new Kalimati-Gurumasini Railway now under construction, at Messrs. Tata and Sons' iron and steel works at Sankchi, and in the several mining and prospecting operations which are being carried on in various parts of the district. Wages of labour.

Famine and Floods.

32. During the period from August 1908 to the 31st July 1909, there was distress in several districts of the province, amounting in Darbhanga to a famine. The scarcity manifested itself chiefly in parts of the three divisions of Bihar, and was directly caused by the failure of the monsoon of 1908, which was not only very weak but, such as it was, unevenly distributed. In North Bihar, too, there was no rain in October or the cold weather. The natural result of this drought, which in intensity and duration exceeded even those of 1873 and 1896, was the destruction of the *bhadoi* crop, the total loss of the *aghani* in poor or unirrigated lands, and the failure of the *rabi* where artificial irrigation was not available. A further consequence was a shortage of drinking water which, especially in Muzaffarpur, might have proved serious had it not been met with energy. Fortunately, the growing demand for labour and the continued high prices of agricultural products have enhanced considerably the power of the cultivating classes to resist bad seasons. Partly for this reason, and partly owing to the vigorous measures taken, several districts, where the outturn was very poor, escaped acute distress. Where, however, as in Darbhanga, repeated failure of the staple crop had impaired the staying power of the raiyats, the poorer classes of whom have not yet learned to seek employment abroad, it was found necessary to declare famine. Preliminary.

33. The parts chiefly affected were the Tirhut and Bhagalpur divisions and, to a small extent, the Japla pargana in the north-east of Palamau. In Japla, however, prices fell with good *mahua* and *rabi* crops, and in the end only a small amount of gratuitous relief proved necessary, and this was given mainly from local charity. In the Bhagalpur division, too, the distress in Purnea was met almost exclusively from local sources, and, in spite of a widespread failure of the rice crop, the prosperity of the cultivating classes was so secure that the distribution of *takavi* loans in April and May proved to be all that was necessary. Of the two areas affected in the Bhagalpur district, the South Gangetic tract never passed beyond the danger stage owing to the emigration *en masse* of the labouring population, and the energetic measures taken by the local officers. The Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions, which lie north of the Ganges, were more seriously affected. In the former, although the position The area affected.

was critical, preventive measures were successful, except in the Kabkhand pargana, in which there had been, for three successive years, an almost total failure of crops. Such water as there was, was used to the best advantage and greatly mitigated the distress, but relief was required in an area of 100 square miles with a population of 70,000 persons. Another small area in which special conditions prevailed was Paru thana in Muzaffarpur, an area of 111 square miles with a population of 78,000, where an abnormally low rainfall for two years had succeeded two years of flood, silting up the Baya river and making irrigation impossible. Apart from these two small tracts, the area seriously affected forms a strip of country extending along the Nepal frontier with an area of 3,790 square miles and a population of three millions. It comprises the northern half of the Darbhanga district and the adjacent portion of Muzaffarpur with the Supaul subdivision of Bhagalpur—a densely populated plain, intersected by numerous rivers.

Progress of relief.

34. Indications of the approach of acute scarcity were observed in Bhagalpur and Darbhanga in August 1908. Up to the end of January 1909, efforts were directed mainly to the distribution of agricultural loans on a large scale and generally to measures of prevention. In Bhagalpur especially, a critical situation was met with energy and resource. In the south of the district the zamindars, urged by the district officers, combined to undertake irrigation works, which afforded employment to all who did not emigrate. North of the Ganges, the raiyats were induced to sow *rabi* and intermediate crops, such as *kurthi* and *janera*. They were persuaded also to take to well-irrigation which they had not previously practised, and thousands of *kutcha* wells were dug to irrigate the *rabi*. These measures benefited Supaul, and averted distress in Madhipura, except in portions of pargana Kabkhand. Permanent improvements were effected also in this area, as the proprietors were induced to dam the Saktidhar and construct strong embankments on both sides of the Tilguja. In Muzaffarpur, where the primary consideration was to avert a water famine, the people were apathetic in the earlier months and loans offered for excavating tanks and wells were accepted only in Pupri thana. The first tract to succumb, however, was the Singhia outpost of Roserha thana in Darbhanga, which had suffered most severely in the famine of 1906-07. Five District Board works at Singhia were converted into test-works on 26th September 1908, and from that date the distress spread until, at the end of January, there were 32,914 workers on test-works in five thanas of the district. Conditions had now become serious. The *rabi* crop, on which so much capital and labour had been expended, was doomed. When the Lieutenant-Governor toured in Bihar in January, the situation was critical in all three districts, and on the 1st February it was found necessary to declare famine in the Bahera, Roserha, Phulparas and Banipati thanas of the Darbhanga district. In Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur the actual declaration of famine was averted by the policy of stimulating private works by the liberal grant of land improvement loans. In February, however, gratuitous relief was required in Bhagalpur, and labourers flocked to the test works opened on a large scale in the Supaul subdivision. In Muzaffarpur gratuitous relief and land improvement loans were the only measures required. In both districts the tension was relaxed by the general rain in April, and the abnormally early monsoon created an ample demand for labour. In Darbhanga, after famine had been declared, the number of works and the attendance maintained a high level during the whole period from February to June. On the 1st March, famine was declared in the three remaining thanas of the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions. The *rabi* harvest in March and the rains in April caused temporary reductions in the figures, but there were still 42,196 persons on relief-works at the end of May. The early and ample monsoon in June led to the resumption of agricultural operations; the works were rapidly closed, and the famine was brought to an end by the 31st July, two months earlier than the period contemplated by the Famine Code. The total number of units on relief works was 4,868,014, of whom 59 per cent. were women and 4 per cent. children. The highest daily attendance occurred in April and was about 65,000.

Nature of relief.

35. The classes to be relieved were three, cultivators, labourers, and persons dependent wholly or largely on charity, and each was provided with its appropriate form of relief, viz., agricultural loans, the provision of employ-

ment, and gratuitous relief. Gratuitous relief which was restricted to those incapable of work, was given mainly in the form of grain. Poor-houses were everywhere unpopular and were practically infirmaries. Employment was provided either on test-works, or by the indirect method of aiding private works, no less than 1,776 tanks and 1,343 wells being dug. In Muzaffarpur, the District Board made experimental borings with the object of tapping the sub-soil water, and 296 wells were successfully bored. Test-works were carried out under Famine Code rules and consisted of earthwork. In the declared area of Darbhanga, relief works, mainly the re-excavation of tanks, were in charge of a Public Works officer and were conducted like the test-works on the system of "piece-work with a maximum." Besides three kitchens for children at Madhubani, there were 84 others at relief works for the dependents of workers, mainly children, and there were 31 poor-houses. Gratuitous relief by doles in villages only, began after the declaration of famine. The relief granted by the Darbhanga Raj to its own tenants was on the same lines as that given by Government. Other private relief operations were of a limited character.

Cost.

36. The cost to Government was Rs. 9,38,925, while Rs. 1,45,929 were spent in the affected areas from District Board funds and other local sources. Besides this, land improvement and *takavi* loans, amounting to Rs. 34,82,343, were granted in the districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur. The redeeming aspect of the situation was the improved power of resistance and recovery manifested by the agricultural classes. In face of a drought, both widespread and intense, conditions of actual famine were developed only in Darbhanga, a district whose resources had been weakened by a series of bad seasons and whose population still clings to its traditional immobility. In the conduct of the operations, the outstanding feature was the success of the loan policy.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for the year 1909-10.]

Collection of Land Revenue.

37. The total current land revenue demand for the year was Rs. 2,89,34,451 which exceeded that for the previous year by Rs. 47,119. The total collections, which amounted to Rs. 2,92,75,470 and their percentage (101·18) on the current demand were the highest on record during the quinquennial period. The remissions amounted to Rs. 44,231. or Rs. 15,203 less than in the preceding year. The results were due to the good harvests of the year. The increase of 478 in the number of estates on the revenue roll was, as in the previous year, due chiefly to partitions.

Defaults and Sale Law.

38. The revenue sale law was, as usual, administrated with leniency and moderation. Owing generally to the good harvests of the year, there was a decrease in the number of defaults by 1,877 as compared with the past year, but the number of sales increased by 19 and the percentage of sales on defaults rose from 4·4 to 5·1. Out of the 113 appeals preferred to Commissioners against the sales only 23 were successful, while the number of cases in which Government annulled the sales on the ground of hardship was 19 only as against 25 in the preceding year.

Redemption of Land Revenue.

39. Redemption of the land revenue demand was sanctioned by Government during the year in respect of 261 petty estates, most of which were permanently settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and the suburbs. The total annual revenue amounted to Rs. 483 and the price realized on redemption was Rs. 14,385.

Miscellaneous revenue.

40. The total collections under this head, including receipts from forest lands in Government estates, amounted to Rs. 14,12,819, or Rs. 6,18,032 in excess of the amount realized during the previous year. The recoveries of survey and settlement charges account for the abnormal increase in the receipts.

Sale of Government estates.

41. Forty-five estates covering an area of 2,213 acres were sold during the year for Rs. 11,919, subject to a total revenue demand of Rs. 4,281. In addition to the above, 69 plots of lann with an area of 191 acres were sold revenue-free at a total price of Rs. 74,416, and three plots covering 45 acres were sold subject to a revenue demand of Rs. 2,315 for Rs. 3,340.

Payment of revenue and rent by money order.

42. There was a considerable decrease during the year in the number of revenue money orders as well as in the amount of the remittances covered by them which fell from Rs. 19,49,141 to Rs. 18,82,531. On the other hand, the number of rent money orders and the total amount covered by them increased considerably, namely, from 43,459 and Rs. 6,66,019 to 45,635 and Rs. 7,77,068, respectively. The percentage of refusals fell from 26·9 to 24·8. The decrease seems to show an improvement in the relations between landlords and tenants.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

43. The current demand under this head was Rs. 76,39,714, or Rs. 2,47,403 in excess of that of the previous year. The increase is due partly to the results of revaluations and partly to the extension of the Cess Act to new areas. The percentage of total collections on current demand amounted to 99·41, showing a slight improvement on the collections of the previous year. Out of the 30 districts in which the cess was levied at the maximum rate prescribed by the act, the 100 per cent. standard of collection was attained in 12 districts only. Of the remaining 18, the collections were nearly up to the standard in 9 and below 98 per cent. in the rest. The percentage of collections was the lowest in the Sonthal Parganas where it was 81·8 only. The bad result is ascribed to the fact that the levy of the cess was a novelty and the proprietors were therefore unaccustomed to pay it punctually.

Certificate Procedure.

44. The number of certificates issued on account of all demands inclusive of cesses decreased from 140,666 to 135,315, the decrease being especially noticeable in connection with cesses and embankment dues. The number

of cases brought to a close amounted to 79·2 per cent. of the total number for disposal, as compared with a percentage of 77·8 obtained in the preceding year. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 36,386, of which 7,877 were more than six months old. Proposals for the amendment of the act are still under consideration.

45. The total number of proprietary interests in land entered under the Bengal Land Registration Act, 1876, in the registers of the province (excluding Sambalpur which is governed by a different law) amounted to 1,076,947. The application made during the year for succession to interests whether by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise amounted to 55,509. The total number of cases disposed of was 55,535, and the number pending at the close of the year was 11,927. The lists of transfers of estates were regularly received from civil courts, the registration and land acquisition offices and the certificate departments of Collectorates. Land Registration.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1909.]

46. There was no topographical survey in progress during the year under report. The outturn of traverse survey was 3,367 square miles as against 5,107 square miles in the previous year. The decrease was mainly due to the completion of the Sundarbans survey. Outturn for the year.

47. A scheme for the compilation of standard maps was approved by the Government of India. Under this scheme, the standard mapping section remains in the same building as the Bengal Drawing Office, and is still controlled by the officer-in-charge of that department. The administration, however, is entirely in the hands of the Surveyor-General, who provides for the necessary establishment, equipment and funds. The present standard maps do not show village boundaries, and as the latter are essential for the preparation of thana and trijunction maps, they are shown in blue on the two-inch sections of standard maps. The question of the publication of a special provincial edition of the standard maps showing village boundaries is under consideration. Administrative and other changes.

48. During the year all the instruments in use in the Bengal Survey Department were made over to this Government free of further charge. So far as this department is concerned, the usual charge for instruments at the rate of four per cent. on the cost of the year's operations, has been discontinued and, in future, payments made on account of the purchase and repair of instruments will be charged in the costs of the year. Instruments.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Surveys, Bengal, on the survey operations in Bengal and Annual Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending the 30th September 1909.]

49. Survey and Settlement operations were in progress during the year in sixteen districts of the province. The main work of the Settlement Department lay in the districts of Patna, Monghyr, Shahabad, Ranchi, Singhbhum and Manbhum. In addition, the settlement of certain zamindari estates in the Sonthal Parganas and of the Majnamutha and other estates in Midnapore, and the revision settlement in Cuttack and Balasore were operations of importance. The year's programme was in most cases carried out in full. Cadastral survey was completed, excluding 1,629 square miles of revision survey in Orissa over an area of 3,378 square miles, and preliminary records were written for the same area. The records of 5,620 square miles were attested and complete records were finally published for an area of 4,234 square miles, while the rents of 201,459 tenants were settled. The expenditure of the year amounted to over ten and a-half lakhs, the greater part of which will be recovered from the landlords and tenants. The total area for which a record-of-rights has now been completed in Bengal under the control of the Director of Land Records is 47,674 square miles. Progress during the last 23 years has averaged 2,073 square miles a year. General.

Administrative and other changes.

50. Important proposals were submitted by the Board of Revenue during the year to provide for the revision settlement of the North Bihar districts, to reduce the programme of the Bihar party by one-half, to start a new party to take up the survey and record-of-rights of the districts of Bengal proper, commencing from the district of Midnapore and to increase the number of gazetted officers allotted to the Settlement Department. These proposals have been submitted to the Government of India.

Land revenue settlements.

51. The settlement of land revenue in the Majnamutha and Jalamutha estates in the district of Midnapore could not be completed during the year, owing to the unusual number of objections put in as soon as the settlement rent-rolls were published in draft. The land revenue settlement of the Phulbatta estate in the district of Khulna was finished.

Other settlements.

52. Operations, not primarily undertaken with a view to the settlement of rent and revenue, were in progress on a large scale in Bihar, the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur. Satisfactory progress was made in all of them.

Bihar.

53. The survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights of South Bhagalpur was brought to a close. A very important feature of the operations in South Bihar is the commutation of produce rents under section 40 of the Tenancy Act. No less than 1,957 such cases were decided in South Bhagalpur in 1907-08. In South Monghyr nearly 6,000 cases have so far been filed, of which more than 3,000 are still pending. In the district of Patna, the question of produce rents and their commutation is causing much agitation, and the applications are likely to be very numerous. During the year 2,545 were received, of which 258 were heard. It was found necessary to appoint a temporary additional Settlement Officer to hear the numerous appeals from the orders passed in commutation cases.

The following table shows the results of rent settlements in the Bihar districts by compromise under section 109C, and by regular proceedings under section 105, of the Bengal Tenancy Act :—

District.	Under section 109C.			Under section 105.			
	Number of tenants.	Rent according to landlord.	Rent settled by compromise.	Number of tenants.	Former rental.	New rental.	Enhancement per cent.
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
Patna ...	4,314	59,035	58,767	...	...	...	...
South Monghyr...	34,980	4,79,640	4,46,364	9,710	1,46,007	1,63,280	11·8
South Bhagalpur	...	...	...	2,849	46,520	52,536	12·9

The extensive resort to section 109C, which has considerably improved the strained relations previously existing between landlord and tenant, is very satisfactory. Of the enhancements allowed under section 105 in South Bhagalpur and South Monghyr, one-half or more were due to excess area and the remainder to the rise in prices.

Sonthal Parganas.

54. The main items in the programme for the year in the district of the Sonthal Parganas were the disposal of pending objections and appeals for 755 square miles, the attestation of the records and settlement of rents in 827 square miles, the disposal in part of objections and appeals for the same area and the preparation of jurisdiction lists. The programme was carried out in full. Considerable progress has been made in the preparation of jurisdiction lists and maps. As the revenue survey maps of the district are obsolete the new jurisdiction maps, when ready, will supply a much felt want.

Chota Nagpur.

55. The programme in Chota Nagpur consisted mainly of the cadastral survey of 1,846 square miles, the attestation of the records of 1,719 square miles, the final publication of the records of 1,442 square miles and the

disposal of objections and applications in 1,618 square miles. The programme was fully completed, with the exception of a small balance of office work. There was no settlement of fair rents during the year in any of the Chota Nagpur districts. In Ranchi, disputes about the incidence of rent, prædial conditions and free labour were far more numerous and difficult than in previous years. Proceedings were taken to prepare a record of landlords' privileged lands in Ranchi under section 119 of the new Act. In the tracts taken up in Singhbhum and Manbhum, the question of the rights of *ghatwals* is of great importance, and received the very careful attention of the Settlement Officer.

Minor Settlements.

56. The operations for the survey and preparation of a record-of-rights undertaken on the application of the landlords or tenants in three zamindari estates in the district of Murshidabad were completed, and in two estates in the districts of Khulna and Puri they were almost finished. Office work was hampered by the difficulty of obtaining clerks in the unhealthy climate of the Satkhira subdivision of the district of Khulna. On account of the strained relations between the proprietors and their tenants, a survey and record-of-rights of Killa Bishnupur, a permanently-settled estate, with an area of 17 square miles, was undertaken under Section 101 (2) (*b*) of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Minor operations, under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which were under the supervision of Commissioners during the year ending the 31st March 1910, covered an aggregate area of 77,791 acres of Government estates and 243,617 acres of zamindari estates.

Recovery of cost.

57. Operations for the recovery of the cost of survey and record-of-rights in South Bhagalpur were postponed owing to the failure of the winter and spring crops, but a sum of Rs. 30,326 was collected from the principal landlords who wished to obtain their copies of the records as soon as possible. In Ranchi, costs were recovered over an area of 2,666 square miles, and Rs. 3,16,213 were realized out of a total demand of Rs. 3,33,776. The balance was due mainly from proprietors who had promised to pay before December 1909. Certificates had to be issued for Rs. 2,232 only.

Revision Settlements.

58. The progress of revision work in the districts of Cuttack and Balasore was more rapid than in the previous year, and the programme of the year was exceeded. The changes were numerous, and the raiyats, as usual, showed a keen interest in the proceedings, while the landlords displayed more appreciation than in previous years. Fair rents were settled under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, mainly on applications filed by tenants in respect of new reclamation. On this ground the rents of 3,984 tenants in the district of Balasore were raised from Rs. 7,033 to Rs. 12,457, or by 77 per cent.

Maintenance of records.

59. Experimental maintenance of the record, without legislation, was carried out in the sadar subdivision of Balasore, with an area of 963 square miles. It appears to have been received favourably by tenants and landlords alike. The work, however, was found more difficult than had been anticipated, and the proceedings proved that, in order to merit the presumption of accuracy, the records should be scrutinized much more elaborately than had been contemplated, and at a very considerable addition to the cost rate. The maintenance of records in Sambalpur went on satisfactorily, while the working of the offices for the registration of mutations at Bettiah, Hajipur and Mahnar, continued to prove the futility of the voluntary system aimed at by the passing of the Land Records Maintenance Act of 1895. There was some slight improvement in the record of mutations and the inspection of rent-rolls in Government and Wards' estates, but there is still much room for improvement, especially in the latter class.

Utilization of land records.

60. The use of cadastral maps and records-of-rights by courts and executive officers has been rapidly extending; and the acquaintance of the courts with settlement records is improving year by year, as a result partly of the annual deputation of a number of Munsifs for survey and settlement training, and partly of the influence of those provisions of the Bengal and Chota Nagpur Tenancy Acts which emphasize the importance of the records.

Boundary marks.

61. District officers generally took adequate steps for the inspection and maintenance of boundary marks. In Government estates and private estates taken together over 89 per cent. of the total number of marks were inspected and the damaged or missing marks were almost all restored.

Waste Lands.

[Land Revenue Administration Report for 1909-10.]

Leases of waste land.

62. In the Sundarbans of the 24-Parganas and Khulna the number of current leases, granted under the rules of 1853, was the same as in the previous year, namely, one hundred and thirty-one, and the revenue payable was Rs. 1,31,553. There were two hundred and nine leases for in all 371,499 acres, granted under the rules for grants to large capitalists, with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 2,26,977. As in the two previous years there were nine leases under the rules for small capitalists. In Saugor Island there were six leases of waste lands current in respect of 20,359 acres, with a revenue demand of Rs. 956 rising eventually to Rs. 28,131. No reclamation operations were undertaken during the year, but existing embankments were kept in repair.

Raiyatwari system.

63. The raiyatwari system, which was introduced as an experiment into the Sundarbans, has been abandoned owing to difficulties of maintaining the protective and drainage works. It is now proposed to introduce a modified system of leases to capitalists under which the rights of actual cultivators will be safeguarded, unnecessary sub-infeudation prevented, and the proper maintenance of embankments and sluices by the lessees secured. Satisfactory offers have been received for the lease of the Fraserganj Government estate on similar conditions.

Resumed estates.

64. Of the seventeen estates resumed in the 24-Parganas including the Saugor Island, four were brought under direct management. There were twelve estates resumed in the Khulna Sundarbans.

Government Estates.

[Land Revenue Administration Report for 1909-10.]

Number and management.

65. The total number of estates under direct management including estates the property of private individuals was 961, with a current demand of Rs. 28,28,091. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 7·72.

Improvements.

66. The total amount placed at the disposal of the Board of Revenue for management and for agricultural, sanitary and miscellaneous improvements was Rs. 3,18,746. The expenditure on account of miscellaneous and sanitary improvements declined from Rs. 1,28,600 to Rs. 1,15,456, the unexpended balance being Rs. 5,970. Steps are being taken, in consultation with the district officers, to place the existing system of the allotment of funds on a systematic basis.

Education.

67. The total expenditure on education exceeded the grant of Rs. 45,757, by nearly Rs. 5,000, the excess being met from the primary education and local grants. There was general increase in the number of both schools and pupils.

Roads and communications.

68. The expenditure on roads and communications amounted to Rs. 1,72,459 against a grant of Rs. 67,679. The excess was met from district board, municipal or other local funds and grants from Government.

Condition of raiyats.

69. The general condition of raiyats in Government estates showed considerable improvement, as compared with the three preceding years. In the Burdwan division the condition of the raiyats was satisfactory throughout the year, as the harvests were, on the whole, good. In the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district the loss caused to the *bhadoi* crops by floods was made good by an exceptional *rabi* harvest. In the Presidency division favourable harvests improved the condition of the tenants though in Khulna the cyclone damaged both harvested and standing crops. The tenants of the Manigram estate in Murshidabad were able to free themselves from private debt, to repay the *takavi* loans taken from Government, and to pay off suspended items of rent. As in the previous year, there was an outbreak of cholera in the district of Jessore and loans were given freely under the Land Improvements Loans Act for the excavation of tanks for drinking water. In the Patna division the condition of raiyats was generally satisfactory. In the low diara lands in Barh subdivision of Patna, however, the *rabi* crops were damaged by a kind of insect called *harda*, and malarial fever and plague were prevalent in portions of the

same district, while portions of Shahabad suffered from want of rain which was accentuated by lack of means of irrigation. In the Orissa, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur divisions, the condition of the raiyats was generally good. Owing to a good harvest and the consequent fall in price of food-grains, the people in Angul completely recovered from the distress caused by the loss of crops in 1907-08. In Puri also a recovery took place, but the whole effects of the two previous bad harvests were not shaken off. In Darjeeling, as many of the tenants of Government are involved in debt at high rates of interest and their holdings are passing into the hands of the money-lenders, the Deputy Commissioner has been directed to make a special enquiry into their circumstances.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1909-10.]

Number of estates and payment of Government demands.

70. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year 1909-10 was 213, against 209 in the previous year. There was a slight improvement in the payment of revenue and cesses, which amounted to 94 per cent. on the demand, as against 92·4 per cent. in the two preceding years. As in 1908 so in 1909 the Tagore estate was the worst defaulter. The sale of the Midnapore property of this estate by which it was intended to clear off arrears, was not effected and a sum of Rs. 67,354 remained unpaid at the close of the year.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

71. The total payments made under this head were 63·3 per cent. of the total demand, against 67·4 in 1908-09. Many of the estates concerned are heavily in debt, and in the case of the Uttarpara estate in the district of Hooghly, which shewed a balance of Rs. 73,544, it has been found necessary to sanction the sale of the properties of the estate to enable it to meet its liabilities.

Collections of rents and cesses.

72. The collection of rent and cesses due to the estates was 97·9 per cent. of the current demand, as against 94·1 per cent. in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. was exceeded in only two divisions, viz., Tirhut (101·3) and Orissa (117·4). The percentage was the lowest in the Patna division, where it was only 89·9.

Balances of rents and cesses due to estates.

73. The outstanding balance was Rs. 1,14,78,412, or 120·7 per cent. of the total current demand, as against 121·2 per cent. in the preceding year. The Dumraon estate alone is responsible for 42·6 per cent. of the total balance, a large proportion of which is irrecoverable. This is only one of several instances in which large irrecoverable arrears are being carried forward from year to year in spite of the repeated orders of Government denouncing the practice. In the Jaunbazar estate in the district of the 24-Parganas the balances were reduced from over four lakhs to Rs. 3,62,810, or by nearly 12 per cent. The number of certificates filed during the year was 434 less than in the previous year, while the amount realized was 42·8 per cent. of the total amount covered by the certificates, as against 25·8 per cent. in 1908-09. The percentage of recoveries on amounts decreed by civil courts rose to 31·1 from 27 in the preceding year.

Payment of debts.

74. The total liabilities at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 3,18,15,674, of which Rs. 49,93,151 were paid, the percentage of payments being about 15·7, as against 16·3 in the two previous years. Progress in the liquidation of debts was slow, the reason being that some of the larger estates are hopelessly involved.

Management charges.

75. The total cost of management rose from 10·5 and 10·7 respectively in the two previous years, to 11·1 per cent. on the total current demand. Owing partly to the payment of grain compensation allowance and partly to various other causes, the standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all the divisions except the Presidency.

Improvements.

76. The total amount spent on improvements, schools and dispensaries was Rs. 4,73,845, or over 7 per cent. of the total net income, the corresponding figure for the preceding year being about 6·7 per cent. Agricultural experiments were made in various estates, but with indifferent results, due partly to want of expert supervision and partly to unfavourable weather or other causes. The cattle-breeding operations in the Hathwa estate in Saran are reported to

have led to a marked improvement in the quality of the cattle in many parts of the estate. A herd of country cattle belonging to Government was made over to the Bettiah estate to be preserved and used solely for the benefit of the tenantry.

Education of Wards' and Encumbered Estates.

77. The arrangements for the education of the wards and the results obtained continued to be, on the whole, satisfactory. The hostel opened at Hazaribagh for sons of zamindars, is reported to have done good work, and the hostel attached to the Ranchi Zilla School accommodated 16 boys from

Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1909-1910. Divisional Miscellaneous Report, 1909-10.]

Tenancy Acts.

78. The Bengal Tenancy Act was the agrarian law in force in the greater part of the province, excluding Chota Nagpur, and continued to work satisfactorily. Certain provisions of the Act have been extended to Orissa. The Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, was extended to the district of Manbhum in December 1909, and this Act is now in force throughout the Chota Nagpur division. The question of introducing a special tenancy law for Orissa is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

Rent-receipts.

79. There are still large numbers of landlords who fail to comply with the provisions of the law about the grant of rent-receipts to their tenants. The total number of cases instituted on account of breaches of the law of this kind during the year was 274, to which the district of Patna alone contributed 123. The rest occurred mainly in Balasore, Tirhut and Monghyr. In 128 cases the offenders were fined and in the rest they were merely warned. As private presses sell rent-receipt forms at much lower rates than those produced at Government presses, the use of forms printed by Government presses is now practically confined to Government and Wards' estates. Manuscript forms are also used in some places, especially in Orissa, where palm-leaf receipts are still in vogue.

Rent-suits.

80. Act X of 1859 was in force in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore, Puri and Darjeeling for the whole year and in Manbhum up to the middle of December 1909. In the remaining districts of the Chota Nagpur division rent-suits are tried under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908. In Sambalpur such suits are tried by revenue officers appointed as Munsifs and all appeals against their decision lie not to the Deputy Commissioner but to the Subordinate Judge. In the Orissa division 39,579 suits of all kinds were instituted, as against 25,719 in the previous year, an increase shared by all the districts of the division, and to be ascribed to the fact that owing to the scarcity and suspension of land revenue in the years immediately preceding, landlords did not take coercive measures to realize arrears of rent from defaulting tenants. With the return of more satisfactory conditions in the year under report, they invoked the assistance of the law courts more freely to recover their dues. In the Chota Nagpur division 7,913 suits for arrears of rent were instituted, as against 7,082 in the preceding year. The increase is common to all the districts except Palamau, where there was a slight decrease. In Ranchi the increase is due to the fact that a large number of suits were brought by the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur and by the managers of the encumbered estates against their raiyats separately and not collectively as before, and also to the fact that the last day of the *Sambat* era falling in the month of March instead of in April, a large number of suits which would otherwise be barred had to be filed during the year. In Singhbhum a large number of suits were filed in Dhalbhum in September (*Bhadra*) when the new agricultural year commenced. The record-of-rights had been finally published over a large area of the pargana, and as the arrears for the Bengali year 1313 were on the point of being barred, the *ijaradars* and other landlords filed a large number of suits.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

81. All the districts report the existence of normal relations between landlords and their tenants, except the districts of the Chota Nagpur and Bhagalpur divisions and the district of Khulna, where relations were said to be strained.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative authorities.

82. The local legislative authority in Bengal is the Bengal Legislative Council, which was established by proclamation of the Governor-General of India in Council published in the *Calcutta Gazette* on the 17th January 1862. The proclamation was made in exercise of powers conferred by section 44 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, and it took the form, contemplated by that section, of extending to Bengal the provisions of that act touching the making of laws and regulations for the peace and good government of the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay. The proclamation was declared to take effect from the 18th January 1862, and the first meeting of the council was held on the 1st February in that year. **The Bengal Legislative Council.**

83. The council at first consisted of twelve members and a President, namely, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the members being nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor with the sanction of the Governor-General. By section 1(*2*) of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, the Governor-General in Council was empowered to increase the number of members up to a maximum of twenty, and by a proclamation, dated the 16th March 1893, the number was increased to twenty, all being nominated, as before, by the Lieutenant-Governor with the sanction of the Governor-General. By regulations made under the Indian Councils Act, 1892, it was provided— **Constitution.**

(1) that not more than ten of the twenty members should be officials;
(2) that nominations to seven seats should be made on the recommendation of (*a*) the Corporation of Calcutta, (*b*) such Municipal Corporations or group or groups of Municipal Corporations (other than the Corporation of Calcutta) as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe, (*c*) such District Boards or group or groups of District Boards as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe, (*d*) such association or associations of landholders as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe, (*e*) such association or associations of merchants, manufacturers or tradesmen as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe, and (*f*) the Senate of the University of Calcutta, each of these six bodies having at least one councillor nominated upon its recommendation, and the District Boards two Councillors; and
(3) that the Lieutenant-Governor might, at his discretion, nominate persons to the remaining seats so as to secure a fair representation of the different classes of the community.

By the Indian Councils Act, 1909, two important changes were made in the constitution of the council. The principle of direct elections was introduced, and the maximum number of members was raised from twenty to fifty. By regulations made under this Act on the 15th November 1909, it is provided—

(1) that twenty-six members shall be elected as follows :—

by the Corporation of Calcutta	...	1 Member.
„ University of Calcutta	...	1 „
„ Municipal Commissioners	...	6 Members.
„ District Boards	...	6 „
„ Landholders	...	5 „
„ Muhammadan community	...	4 „
„ Bengal Chamber of Commerce	...	2 „
„ Calcutta Trades Association	...	1 Member

(2) that not more than twenty-two members shall be nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, with the sanction of the Governor-General, and that of these members—

(*a*) not more than seventeen may be officials, and

(*b*) two shall be non-official persons to be selected—one from the Indian commercial community and one from the planting community, and

(3) that the Lieutenant-Governor may nominate two more persons, whether officials or non-officials, having expert knowledge of subjects connected with proposed or pending legislation.

The regulations thus authorise the constitution of a council of the full number of members allowed by the Act., viz., fifty. To this number must be added the President himself and the Members of the Bengal Executive Council, who are *ex-officio* members of the Legislative Council by virtue of section 3(*4*) of the Act. The regulations declare that the power of nominating officials is not to be exercised so as to produce an official majority. They also contain provisions as to the qualifications of candidates for election, the making by elected and nominated members of an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown, bye-elections, corrupt practices at elections, the quorum at meetings of the council and other matters, and they increase from two years to three the term of office of members. Section 4 of the Act provides for the appointment of a Vice-President of the council. The first meeting of the council, as constituted under the new act and regulations, was held on the 4th January 1910.

Legislative powers.

84. The legislative authority of the Bengal Council was declared by the proclamation of 1862 to extend to all the provinces, districts and places administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The council has power to make laws for the peace and good government of these territories, and for that purpose to repeal and amend any laws and regulations made before the 1st August 1861, by any authority in India; but it may not make laws which shall in any way affect any Act of Parliament (*see* the Indian Councils Act, 1861, sections 42 and 48). The implied prohibition to repeal or amend laws made after the 1st August 1861, by any authority in India was removed by the Indian Councils Act, 1892, section 5, which authorises local legislatures to make such repeals and amendments with the previous sanction of the Governor-General. It is further provided by section 43 (read with section 48) of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, that the Bengal Council may not, without the previous sanction of the Governor-General, make or take into consideration any laws for any of the following purposes, namely :—

(1) affecting the public debt of India, or the customs duties, or any other tax or duty imposed by the authority of the Government of India for the general purposes of such Government;

(2) regulating any of the current coin, or the issue of any bills, notes or other paper currency;

(3) regulating the conveyance of letters by the post-office or messages by the electric telegraph within the Presidency;

(4) altering in any way the Penal Code of India, as established by Act of the Governor-General in Council, No. 45 of 1860.

(5) affecting the religion or religious rites and usages of any class of His Majesty's subjects in India;

(6) affecting the discipline or maintenance of any part of His Majesty's military or naval forces;

(7) regulating patents or copyright; or

(8) affecting the relations of the Government with foreign princes or states.

85. Revised rules for the conduct of legislative business in the Bengal Legislative Council were made by the Council on the 18th January 1890, and some new rules were added in March 1904. **Rules for the conduct of legislative business.**

86. Acts passed by the Bengal Council are subject to the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor-General, and no such act has validity until the assent of the Governor-General has been signified to, and published by, the Lieutenant-Governor: if the Governor-General withholds his assent the reason therefor must be signified by him to the Lieutenant-Governor in writing (*see* the Indian Councils Act, sections 39, 40, 48). Any act made by the Bengal Council may be disallowed by the Crown (*see* Indian Councils Act, sections 41, 48), or may be repealed or amended by an act of the Governor General in Council (*see ib.*, section 22), or by a regulation made by the Governor-General in Council under the Government of India Act, 1870 (33 & 34 Vict, c. 3), s. 1. **Validity of Bengal Council Acts.**

87. Legislation is not the only function of the Bengal Legislative Council. By section 2 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was empowered to make rules for authorising the discussion of the annual financial statement of the Government of Bengal, and the asking of questions at meetings of the council, but it was provided that no member should have power to submit or propose any resolution or to divide the council in respect of any financial discussion or the answer to any question. This section was repealed *in toto* by the Indian Councils Act, 1909, by section 5 of which the Lieutenant-Governor is required to make rules for the same purposes and also for authorising the discussion of matters of general public interest at meetings of the council. Rules under the new act were made in December 1909. **Other functions.**

88. The rules for the discussion of the Financial Statement provide in the first instance for the preliminary consideration by a finance committee of the council of the distribution of the funds which are available under the budget for expenditure which may be described as optional. The committee consists of twelve members of the council, six of whom are nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor and six elected by the non-official members of the council. It is directed that tabular statements should be laid before it ing— **Rules for the discussion of the Financial Statement.**

(*a*) the opening balance of the provincial account;
(*b*) the estimated provincial revenue under the various major heads of account;
(*c*) the estimated provincial expenditure, under specific major heads, on existing establishments and schemes, and on new schemes, the cost of which is not considerable or which the Local Government considers to be of an absolutely obligatory character;
(*d*) the amounts available for maximum recurring expenditure and for total expenditure upon other new schemes, the latter being provisionally included under a head "Unallotted Expenditure;"
(*e*) the estimated closing balance; and
(*f*) a memorandum detailing as fully as possible the manner in which the Local Government proposes to allot the sum available for total expenditure on new schemes as in clause (*d*) above and also indicating, if thought desirable, alternative methods of distributing this expenditure. In respect of each suggestion thus made, the maximum recurring expenditure, and the total expenditure—(*a*) recurring and (*b*) non-recurring—which it is proposed to incur in the next financial year, is stated separately.

The finance committee submits its report to the Local Government indicating the changes which it recommends in the draft Financial Statement, upon receipt of which the Local Government may revise the statement as they think fit. A report is then submitted to the Government of India stating the modifications suggested.

After revision by the Government of India the draft is reprinted under the title of the Revised Financial Statement, and after circulation to members

of the council is laid before the council for discussion, being introduced and explained in sections dealing with the receipts and expenditure under particular heads, by the members in charge of the different departments concerned. Members may then move resolutions relating to entries in the statement, subject to certain restrictions which bar certain matters for discussion. Time limits are imposed for speeches, and the President is empowered to assign a limit of time for the discussion of all resolutions or of any particular resolution. When resolutions are carried, they have effect only as recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The next stage is to amend the Financial Statement with reference to resolutions carried in council and accepted by the Lieutenant-Governor and to any special circumstances not previously foreseen, and to submit it to the Government of India. The statement in the form in which it is finally sanctioned by that Government, is known as the "Budget." This is circulated to members of the council, and is open to general discussion in council; but no resolutions may be moved upon it, and it is not submitted to the vote. The discussion is limited to those branches of revenue and expenditure which are under the financial control of the Local Government, and the President is again empowered to prescribe a time-limit for speeches.

Questions.

89. The rules for the asking of questions admit of any member of the council asking any question on any subject, except matters affecting Foreign States or Native States and matters under adjudication by any court of law. Some restrictions upon the form of questions also are imposed, and ten days' notice of questions is ordinarily required. The President is empowered to disallow any question without assigning any reason other than that it cannot be answered consistently with the public interest or that it should be put in another legislative council. Questions are printed in the list of business, and are taken as read, but the answers are delivered at length. A member who has asked a question may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which a request for information has been made in his original question. The official member in charge of the subject-matter, however, may decline to answer a supplementary question without notice, and the President has power to disallow any supplementary question without assigning reasons. The President is also empowered to rule that an answer to a question entered in the list of business for the day shall be given on the ground of public interest, even though the question may have been withdrawn. No discussion is permitted in respect of any question or answer. The President is empowered to assign a limit of time for the putting and answering of questions.

Discussion of matters of general public interest.

90. The rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest admit of any member of the council moving a resolution on any subject, with certain restrictions designed to prevent fruitless discussion and certain restrictions as to form. Fifteen days' notice of resolutions is ordinarily required. The President is empowered to disallow any resolution without assigning any reason other than that it cannot be moved consistently with the public interest or that it should be moved in another legislative council. Time-limits are imposed for speeches on resolutions, namely, thirty minutes for the mover of a resolution, the same for the official member in charge of the subject-matter and fifteen minutes for other members; and the President is empowered to assign a limit of time for the discussion of resolutions, or of any particular resolution. Speeches may be printed and circulated to members in advance, and may, when the council meets, be taken as read. The discussion on a resolution is limited to the subject of the resolution, and must not extend to any matter as to which a resolution may not be moved. When a resolution is under discussion, any member may move an amendment. When resolutions are carried, they have effect only as recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Governor-General in Council.

91. In addition to the Bengal Legislative Council, the Governor-General in Council legislates for Bengal. Such legislation takes the form of—

(1) Acts passed at Legislative meetings under the Indian Council Acts, 1861, 1892 and 1909, and

(2) Regulations made in Executive Council under the Government of India Act, 1870.

Acts of the Governor-General in Council affecting Bengal apply for the most part to other provinces as well. They commonly apply to the whole of British India. Some such acts have been passed for Bengal alone; but this is now done but rarely, since section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, has provided a means for removing the bar which used to cripple the powers of the local legislature. Regulations under the Government of India Act, 1870, are only made for backward tracts, such as the Angul district and the Sonthal Parganas, to which the act is specially applied by resolution of the Secretary of State for India in Council.

92. Lastly, Parliament retains power to legislate for Bengal in common with other British possessions. Parliament.

Course of Legislation.

93. Four acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1909-10:— Acts passed during 1909-10.

(1) *Bengal Act IV of 1909* [*The Sambalpur (Delegation) Act, 1909.*]—This act empowers the Government of Bengal to delegate to the Board of Revenue certain of its functions under enactments in force in the district of Sambalpur.

(2) *Bengal Act V of 1909* (*The Bengal Excise Act, 1909*).—This act consolidates and amends the law in Bengal relating to the import, export, transport, manufacture, possession and sale of intoxicating liquor and intoxicating drugs, and brings the excise administration of the district of Sambalpur into line with that of the rest of Bengal. The act follows the lines proposed by the Excise Committee of 1905-06, and as recommended by that committee, lays down the broad principles on which the excise administration is to be conducted, leaving points of detail to be determined by rules. Of the important amendments made by the act in the pre-existing law, those of most general interest are the following:—

(*a*) the introduction of the contract distillery system for supply of country spirit (section 22);
(*b*) the introduction of new facilities for inter-provincial import and export (sections 9 to 12);
(*c*) the introduction of provisions for consulting local opinion as regards sites for liquor shops and other excise shops (sections 30 to 36);
(*d*) the introduction of provisions permitting the imposition of a free-tax on *tari* [sections 14, 27(2) and 28(*f*)]; and
(*e*) the introduction of provisions for the compounding of offences (section 65).

(3) *Bengal Act I of 1910* [*The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act, 1910*].—This act empowers the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta to make rules for the grant of pensions, gratuities or compassionate allowances to any of their officers or servants who may be injured, or to surviving relatives of any of their officers or servants who may be killed, in the execution of their duty.

(4) *Bengal Act II of 1910* [*The Bengal Municipal (Amendment and Validation) Act, 1910.*]—This act—

(*i*) declares that an officer who is appointed to exercise the powers and duties of municipal commissioners who have been superseded by an order of the Government, may exercise powers which, under the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (Ben. Act III of 1884), are exerciseable only at a meeting of the commissioners, as well as powers which are exerciseable by the commissioners otherwise than at a meeting, and
(*ii*) validates a notification by which the number of the commissioners of the Santipur Municipality was reduced.

Bills pending during 1909-10.

94. Two bills were under consideration during the year 1909-10, and passed shortly after the close of the year, namely:—

(1) *The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1910.*—This bill was introduced in council on the 13th July 1909, and passed on the 4th April 1910, being now Bengal Act III of 1910. The act introduces various amendments into the Calcutta Police Act, 1866 (Bengal Act IV of 1866), and the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866 (Bengal Act II of 1866). Those acts were passed at a time when the administration of the police department was far less complex than it has now become, and it was necessary to amplify them by conferring power on the police to meet various emergencies which arise at the present day. Many of the provisions of the comprehensive Police Act passed for the city of Bombay in the year 1902 (Bombay Act IV of 1902) are incorporated in the new Act.

(2) *The Bengal Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1910.*—This bill was introduced in council on the 4th January 1910, and passed on the 5th April 1910, being now Bengal Act IV of 1910. The main object of the act is to provide a means of carrying out re-valuation for cess purposes simultaneously with settlement work, and thereby to lessen the cost of re-valuation which falls on district boards. The rents recorded by the settlement officer in the case of lands for which cash rents are payable, and the information which he has the fullest opportunity of gathering on the spot in respect of the rents of other lands, form a safe basis for the preparation of a valuation-roll showing the annual value on which the amount of cess payable is to be computed. The act also introduces other amendments of comparatively minor importance, into the Cess Act.

Police.

[Report on the Administration of the Police of the Lower Provinces, Bengal Presidency, for 1909. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Political Crime.

95. Mention of the Alipore Bomb case is made in the chapter on Police Adminstration in Calcutta. Apart from this, the most notable feature of the year under this head was the continuance of the series of political dacoities which commenced in 1908. The Bighati, Morehal and Raita cases of that year were succeeded by outrages at Netra, Nangla, Haludbari, and Buikara. The investigation of these crimes has met with a large measure of success, but they have afforded disquieting evidence of the existence of revolutionary organizations, composed of educated men, prepared to prey upon the community at large in furtherance of their mistaken ends. These societies have now, for the most part, been broken up or crippled; and with their disappearance the province has seen the last of this class of political crime in an organized form. This result is due to the police—and in particular the Special Department—who have exhibited in the conduct of these intricate and far-reaching enquiries qualities of skill, care and determination worthy of the highest praise. Government has sustained a serious loss by the dastardly murder, on the 24th January 1910, of Khan Bahadur Shamsul Alam, who was throughout the year senior investigating officer of the Special Department.

Professional Crime.

96. The Criminal Investigation Department continued to do valuable work in dealing with professional crime. Attention was directed to the numerous thefts that had been occurring on the East Indian Railway, and a patrol system was introduced, with the result that the number of such cases was reduced from 4,202,—the figure for 1908,—to 3,303. These professional train thefts however require, and are receiving further attention. Other notable successes were obtained in dealing with dacoities on the Purnea frontier and in the 24-Parganas. The British Resident in Nepal, Lieutenant-Colonel Manners-Smith, V.C., C.I.E., has rendered cordial assistance and, on his initiative, rules were introduced providing for co-operation on more regular lines with the Nepalese authorities. There is little doubt that these rules will result in the better control of this troublesome form of border crime. In the 24-Parganas also, several important gangs were broken up in the Barrackpore and

Barasat subdivisions. Satisfactory progress was made during the year with the careful arrangement and indexing of the materials collected regarding professional crime.

Ordinary Crime.

97. The staple crimes against property, viz., burglary and theft, show a return towards normal conditions after the unduly high figures of last year. The decline is due primarily to the improvement in agricultural conditions, but a contributing factor is no doubt to be found in the activity displayed in instituting prosecutions for bad livelihood, the numbers of which have risen by nearly 25 per cent. It appears, however, that there is still much room for improvement in this class of work.

Rural Police.

98. The Inspector-General of Police was requested to submit to Government specific proposals for such modifications as may, in his opinion, be required to preserve unimpaired the exercise by the chaukidar of his primary function of supplying information to the police.

Remands.

99. No practical improvement has been effected in this important matter. The fluctuations from district to district are remarkable. In Cuttack, 78 per cent. of the cases tried were disposed of in two hearings or less, while in Patna and Shahabad the percentage fell to under 30 per cent. It has been found difficult to explain these differences, except upon the hypothesis of better method and greater energy displayed by some courts than by others. Patna, Shahabad, Purnea, Jessore and Khulna show the worst results, and the attention of the Magistrates of these districts has been drawn to this fact. Officers inspecting the courts of subordinate magistrates, have been desired to bring direct to the notice of Government in the Appointment Department cases of habitual failure of duty in this respect; and District Magistrates, when submitting the annual character reports of the officers serving under them, have been asked to give special attention to the subject.

General conditions of the Police.

100. The police have had to bear perhaps more than their share of criticism during the year, much of it ill-directed and not a little malicious. A genuine desire on the part of the educated members of the force to raise the standard and public reputation of their service, has proved to be a more effective stimulus towards police reform. The influence of the better educated class of officers, whose introduction is a result of the Police Commission's recommendations, has made itself felt in the growth of a feeling of self-respect within the force, which is a hopeful augury for the future of the department.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for their destruction. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Wild animals.

101. The total number of persons killed by wild animals was 1,004 as against 1,034 in 1908, the largest number of cases occurring as in previous years in Chota Nagpur. The total number of deaths caused by elephants fell from 17 in 1908 to 8 and those caused by tigers fell from 455 in 1908 to 383 in the year under report. The Chota Nagpur and Orissa divisions show a very high mortality under this head, though it is satisfactory to note that in the former division the number has decreased. The decrease in Hazaribagh is mainly due to the payment in 1908, of special rewards of Rs. 500 for every tiger killed within certain specified areas. The deaths under this head recorded in Orissa increased from 100 to 116. There were 41 deaths in Angul in the year under report, compared with 32 in 1908. In Khulna, the number fell from 68 to 30. The number of deaths caused by wolves in the district of Hazaribagh increased from 75 to 95. The special reward of Rs. 20 sanctioned for every wolf killed within the jurisdiction of certain thanas in that district, did not prove sufficient inducement to the local shikaries, and it was raised to Rs. 50 during the year. The number of deaths caused by leopards rose from 94 to 135. In Gaya there was an increase from 24 to 45. The number of persons killed by hyenas rose from 29 to 50.

Snakes.

102. The number of persons who died from snake-bite was 7,202 against 7,402 in 1908.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

103. 23,624 head of cattle were killed by wild animals as compared with 18,272 in 1908. The increase is shared by all the divisions except Tirhut.

Destruction of wild animals and snakes.

104. The total number of wild animals destroyed during the year under report was 1,427 as against 1,683 in the preceding year. The number of leopards and wolves killed, decreased from 414 and 301 to 311 and 160, respectively. 21,908 snakes are reported to have been destroyed, as against 18,608 in the preceding year, but it is doubtful whether much reliance can be placed on the accuracy of these figures. The amounts paid in rewards for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 9,631-15-6 and Rs. 170-14 respectively, the corresponding figures for 1908 being Rs. 10,026-10 and Rs. 160-11.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for 1909. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Reorganization.

105. The new beat-system, which was advocated by the Police Commission and which received the sanction of the Secretary of State in September 1908, was carried into effect in the Southern Division of the suburbs and the third Division of the town, but its introduction was unfortunately delayed until the latter end of the year owing to difficulties in obtaining recruits. An increase of 23 head constables and 173 constables was sanctioned for this purpose. The system will be extended to the remaining portion of the town and to the Northern Division of the suburbs during the year 1910-11. The scheme provides for watches of four hours' duration and a double patrol at night, and allows constables one night in bed after two nights on duty. It is believed that the introduction of the scheme will not only give much-needed relief to the rank and file of the police, but will add to the efficiency of the force as a preventive agency.

Discipline.

106. In matters of discipline the excellent record of 1908 has been fully maintained, and even surpassed. The number of men rewarded by promotion, good conduct stripes, or otherwise, rose from 1,233 to 1,276, and only 14 recruits deserted from the lines, as against 80 during 1908.

Political crime.

107. Although as regards political crime the year as a whole was marked by a relaxation of the tension which prevailed in 1908, the capital was unfortunately not altogether free from political outrage. On the 10th February the Public Prosecutor of Alipore, Babu Ashutosh Biswas, who was appearing on behalf of the Crown in the Alipore bomb case before the Sessions Judge, was shot dead in the compound of the Alipore Police Court. The murderer was convicted and hanged. A jagir of the annual value of Rs. 5,982 has been conferred on the family of the deceased. A jagir has also been granted to the relatives of Sub-Inspector Nanda Lal Banarji, who met his death in Calcutta under somewhat similar circumstances on the 9th November 1908. The Alipore bomb case continued to engage the attention of the courts throughout the year. The judgment of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Carnduff, which was delivered on the 23rd November 1909, upheld the conviction of twelve of the conspirators with some modification of sentences. The case of five prisoners was referred to a third judge, and their trial was not concluded until after the close of the year under review. The finding of the Hon'ble Judges fully vindicated the police against the aspersions cast upon them by the defence and reiterated by a section of the press. The Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Carnduff formally placed on record their appreciation of the creditable manner in which the case had been conducted, and their opinions were subsequently endorsed by Mr. Justice Harington.

Results of cases.

108. The comparative lightening of the burden of political crime has enabled the police to give increased attention to their normal duties, with successful results. There has been an increase in the number of cases instituted, but this is due not to any growth of crime but to greater activity on the part of the police, especially in connection with the suppression of public nuisances. The total number of cognizable cases reported direct to the police, and instituted on complaint to a magistrate, during the year under review was 59,448, or 15,094 more than in 1908, while "cognizable offences under special and local laws" and public nuisances show an increase of 14,931, of which 11,369

are accounted for by prosecutions for public nuisances under the Penal Code and the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts.

The number of burglaries has shown practically no diminution. Owing to the unavoidable delay in its introduction, there was not time for the preventive effect of the new beat-system to make itself felt during the year under review, but it is believed that an improvement will be manifested during 1910. There was a satisfactory diminution in the figures of minor offences against property, in particular of ordinary thefts, while the total value of property stolen fell from Rs. 8,45,000 to Rs. 3,86,000.

There were 113 successful prosecutions for rash and negligent driving as against 71 in the preceding year. The number of motor cars continues to increase. At the close of the year there were in force 883 registration certificates for motor cars and 127 for motor cycles, as against 610 and 88, respectively, on the 31st December 1908; and 17 dealers as against 16 held general licenses. Prosecutions were instituted against 126 persons under the Motor Car Act or statutory rules, as against 76 in 1908, and of these 110 were convicted.

During the year the number of cases disposed of by Honorary Magistrates has risen to 4,300, or 8·9 per cent. of the total. The rise in the number of old offenders brought to book is satisfactory, as is the fact that a greater proportion of convictions was obtained in such cases before the Courts of Session. Of the old offenders re-convicted by the High Court, 38 as against 23 in the preceding year, received sentences of two years' imprisonment or over, that is, sentences beyond the competence of Magistrates. In dealing with juvenile offenders, the courts made a more liberal use of the provisions of the Reformatory Schools Act (Act VIII of 1897), but, on the other hand, only 155 first offenders were bound down to come up for judgment under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, as against 205 in 1908. The number of juvenile offenders in the city is increasing, and it has been observed that the subject should be treated on more general lines than has hitherto been done. The Commissioner of Police has been asked, in consultation with the Chief Presidency Magistrate, to consider and report on the whole question of the procedure of the police and the courts in cases in which juvenile offenders are concerned, and to submit suggestions for a further differentiation of the treatment of juvenile and adult accused.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1909: Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

109. During the year the permanently-settled estates of Tazpur and Taranpur were transferred from the Ballia district in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh to the district of Shahabad in Bengal and Mauzas Rampur Rudar, Ubhawa and Sarangpur were re-transferred from the jurisdiction of thana Masrakh in the district of Saran to that of thana Paru in the district of Muzaffarpur. **Changes in Jurisdiction.**

110. For Sessions work, the staff consisted throughout the year of 20 Sessions Judges and 1 Additional Sessions Judge. Three Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. They decided 30, 26 and 16 Sessions cases, respectively, during the year. Besides the above, temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed during the year in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Patna, Saran, Bhagalpur, Bankura and Midnapore to try special Sessions cases. **Judicial Staff.**

The staff of magistrates at the close of the year, including that of Calcutta, consisted of 392 stipendiary and 999 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 25 and a decrease of 57, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Three special magistrates appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were employed on criminal work at Shahabad and decided 26 cases. Of the 392 stipendiary magistrates, 223 exercised first, 118 second, and 51 third class powers. There were 144 benches of magistrates constituted from among 932 Honorary Magistrates working during the year in the mufassal, 2 benches in Bhagalpur

and one in Ranchi having been abolished, and one having been created in each of the districts of Monghyr and the 24-Parganas. Of the total, 111 were independent, and 33 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

111. There were reported during the year 258,276 criminal offences, an increase of 17,372 on the figures of 1908. Of the total, 147,248 were under the Indian Penal Code and 111,028 under special and local laws. These totals are more by 1,049 and 16,323, respectively, than those of 1908. The increase under both heads was most marked in the Presidency Town, followed by Balasore and Puri as regards offences under the Penal Code, and by Saran as regards offences under special and local laws.

False cases.

112. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1908, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year, was 39,908, or 15·4 per cent. of the number reported during the year. The percentage for 1908 was 15·6. Of the total in 1909, complaints were dismissed in 34,146 cases, or 2,211 more than in 1908. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 5,762, or 57 less than in 1908.

True cases.

113. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 217,874 were found to be true, and of these 175,549 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 9,921 cases. Compared with 1908, the number of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial, shows an increase of 15,589 and 18,493, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

114. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 61,045 were in the courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency Town, and 114,504 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassil.

(A) Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta. Cases for trial.

115. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was greater by 18,799 than in 1908. The number of cases under special and local laws was 45,567, or 12,492 more than in 1908, while cases under the Penal Code rose from 9,171 to 15,478. The increase under the former head was most marked in offences under the Police Act, which rose from 10,625 to 16,102, in offences under the Calcutta Municipal Act, which rose from 11,474 to 14,290, in offences under the Port Act, which rose from 1,758 to 3,137, in offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which rose from 6,321 to 7,950, and in offences under the Calcutta Hackney Carriage Act, which rose from 1,611 to 2,437. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was an increase in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc., which rose from 5,104 to 10,955, and in offences against the human body, which rose from 1,226 to 1,503. A striking decrease was in offences under the Printing Press Act, 1867 (XXV of 1867), which fell from 109 to 2. Before Presidency Magistrates other than the Municipal Magistrate, 44,250 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 40,241 were before stipendiary magistrates, 3,921 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 88 before benches. In 1908 the same officers disposed of 29,174 cases, of which 27,059 were before stipendiary magistrates, 1,915 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 200 before benches. There were 85 cases pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 95 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by magistrates, 1,650 under ordinary, and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates fell from 16,426 to 14,049 notwithstanding the large increase in the number of cases decided during 1909. The number of cases brought before the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 16,818, of which 14,276 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 16,817, of which 15,886 were decided under the summary procedure; and none remained pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1908, the number of cases instituted and disposed of, shows an increase of 3,802 and 3,790, respectively. The work in the court of the Municipal Magistrate has been marked by a large increase each year since its establishment in 1901.

Results of trials.

116. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 48,882. Of the persons tried, 5,251 were acquitted or discharged, 43,367 were convicted, 4 persons died, 126 were committed to the Sessions, and 134 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 13,064 were convicted, and 4,333 acquitted or discharged. The results of the trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates	4,607	39,532	89·5
Benches of Magistrates	69	44	38·9
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly ...	575	3,791	86·8

Of the persons convicted, 1,358 were punished with rigorous imprisonment; 169 were punished with simple imprisonment; 38,398 with fine; and 157 with whipping. 184 of the persons sentenced to fine, and 4 of those sentenced to whipping, were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. 25 sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. 2,891 convicted persons were warned and discharged. In addition to these sentences, 254 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 247 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 42 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 129 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the case of 184 persons. The number of persons released upon probation of good conduct shows a decrease of 60 as compared with 1908. Before the Municipal Magistrate, 19,167 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 18,218 were convicted, 946 were acquitted or discharged, and 3 died, escaped, or were transferred for trial to other courts. None remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 4,848, or 91 more than in 1908. The percentage of conviction was 95. Of the persons convicted, 12,279 were punished with fines, and the others were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Corporation.

(B) Magistrates outside Calcutta. Cases for trial.

117. At the opening of the year, 3,198 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 114,564 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 114,496 were disposed of, 3,214 remaining pending at its close. Cases brought to trial were less than in 1908 by 314. Under the Indian Penal Code the decrease was chiefly in offences against property (3,011), in offences by or relating to public servants (468), and in offences against the public tranquillity (284). There was, however, an appreciable increase in cases under special and local laws. The variations under the other heads call for no remark. A decrease in the number of cases instituted is reported from 18, and an increase from 13 districts. The decrease was marked in the 24-Parganas (960), Puri (929), Patna (566), Manbhum (485) and Bankura (360); while the increase was greatest in Saran (1,105), Howrah (811), Bhagalpur (744), Jessore (473) and Khulna (348). The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	402	91
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	62,659	24,860
Honorary Magistrates	11,365	638
Benches of Magistrates	5,541	8,805
Special Magistrates	26	.....

Of the 402 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 38 were decided in the exercise of special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Deputy Commissioners of the Chota Nagpur division and the Sambalpur district, this being a decrease of 9 on the figures for 1908.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 109 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was less than the number decided in 1908 by 78. The decrease occurred in the courts of District Magistrates, subordinate stipendiary magistrates and benches who disposed of 1,332 and 201 cases less, respectively, than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by Honorary and special magistrates shows an increase of 167 and 1, respectively, as compared with 1908. The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 602 against 615 in 1908. The largest number of cases was decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh (87) and the District Magistrates of Puri and Midnapore (84 and 79, respectively). The District Magistrates of Hooghly and Jessore did not dispose of any criminal cases.

Results of trials.

118. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 1,244 were committed or referred to the Sessions, and 113,252 were finally disposed of by magistrates. In these latter, 1,62,667 persons were accused, this number being 1,579 less than that of 1908. Of the total, 93,669, or 57·5 per cent., were convicted, and 68,998, or 42·5 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1908, 58·8 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 35,885, or 39·4 per cent., were convicted, and 55,103, or 60·6 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. The total number of persons awaiting trial before magistrates at the close of 1909 was 6,375, as compared with 6,626 of 1908. Of these, 29, all of whom except one were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. The person in custody was undergoing trial in Manbhum on charges under sections 417, 465, etc., of the Indian Penal Code, and was unable to furnish bail. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months, submitted by the magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court, and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 603, against 952 at the close of 1908. The general result of trials before magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates ...	5,120	12,303	70·6
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	55,436	72,613	56·7
Honorary Magistrates	7,995	8,229	50·6
Special Magistrates	26	30	53·5
District Magistrates	421	494	53·9

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were, by benches of magistrates, 8,805; by subordinate stipendiary magistrates, 24,860; by Honorary Magistrates, 638; and by District Magistrates, 95.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	44,739	11,795
On summary trial	6,337	30,798

Punishments.

119. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous	18,560
	Simple	914
Fine	With imprisonment	2,583
	Without imprisonment	68,090
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	758
	Additional punishment	147

A term of solitary confinement was included in 320 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 54 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a Reformatory School. 2,796 persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,695

of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. 345 persons, against 485 in 1908, were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 72 cases involving 73 persons, all of whom were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 2,977 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 916 were convicted of offences involving breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,094 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 12,562 for terms not exceeding 6 months; 5,400 for terms not exceeding 2 years; and 59 for terms exceeding 2 years. Sentences of whipping were passed on 905 persons, as against 1,184 in the preceding year. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 5,51,909. During the year Rs. 4,78,748 were realized and Rs. 61,950 were paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realized.

Miscellaneous Proceedings, Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter VIII

120. There were 1,462 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 6,577 persons were involved. The number of cases and the persons involved therein were more than the number brought before the Courts in 1908. Of the persons concerned, 2,081 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Khulna (1,126), Jessore (666), Howrah (491), Saran (394), Bhagalpur (349) and Murshidabad (322). The increase in the number of proceedings of this class was marked in Khulna, Saran, Jessore and Bhagalpur; while the most notable decrease was in Patna, Champaran and the 24-Parganas, as compared with 1908. In 1,793 cases, 3,986 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 3,233 of them. Of the latter, 3,132 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 437 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and 2,695 under orders of magistrates, for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

121. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code, were taken in 1,235 cases, and in the cases of 21 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land, decided by magistrates during the year, was 2,585, an increase of 529 on the figures for 1908. Under section 250 of the Code, 731 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusations brought by them having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 817 persons, and orders were made absolute against 216.

Witnesses.

122. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassil was 324,475, as compared with 323,309 in 1908. The number who attended and were discharged without examination, was 1,16,900, or 26·4 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 26·9. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 72,217 in 1908 to Rs. 74,863 in 1909. Of the total number in attendance, 345,387 (78·3 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 71,115 (16·1 per cent.) on the second; 18,935 (4·3 per cent.) on the third; and 5,938 (1·3 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 893 less than the number so detained in 1908. This improvement is satisfactory, in view of the larger number of witnesses examined during the year under review. The districts in which the largest proportion of witnesses were detained for more than three days were Hazaribagh (3·2), Shahabad (2·6), Hooghly (2·4), Palamau (2·2) and Muzaffarpur (2·1). The results show a marked improvement in the case of Muzaffarpur which headed the list in the preceding year. Explanations of all these detentions have been considered by the High Court, and orders have been passed on them.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

123. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,244, or 78 less than in 1908; and the number of cases disposed of;

including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,253, which is also less than the number disposed of in 1908 by 40. There were 142 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments decreased in 19 districts, increased in 11, and in two districts the figures were the same as in the preceding year. The decrease was marked in the following districts:—in Patna from 76 to 49; in the Sonthal Parganas from 62 to 37; in Howrah from 53 to 37; in Burdwan from 36 to 22; and in Saran from 47 to 34. On the other hand, the increase was pronounced in Khulna from 40 to 59; in the 24-Parganas from 86 to 104; in Nadia from 51 to 68; and in Midnapore from 71 to 83. The numbers in Bhagalpur and Darbhanga (52 and 38, respectively) were the same as in 1908, and, as in that year, the number of commitments was largest in the 24-Parganas (104).

Results of trials.

124. There were 3,630 persons, or 239 less than in 1908, under trial before Courts of Session during the year. The cases of 3,261 persons were decided, and 352 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 3,261 persons tried, 1,943, or 59·5 per cent., were convicted, and 1,214 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 104 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

125. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year:—

Death		26
Transportation	For life	118
	For a term of years	47
Imprisonment	Rigorous	1,317
	Simple	3
Fine		38
Whipping		8

In the case of 31 out of the 1,317 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of 5 youthful offenders the sentences of imprisonment were commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 30 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on 4 of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 437 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (60 for terms not exceeding one year and 377 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and 20 persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment. Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	15
	6 months	152
	2 years	427
	7 „	1,078
Exceeding 7 years		80

Fines to the amount of Rs. 7,465 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 5,050 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 2,213, as compared with Rs. 3,039 in 1908. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 662 in 1909, as compared with Rs. 1,082 in 1908.

Jury trials.

126. The number of persons tried by jury during 1909 was 821; and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 669 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 152. In the case of 78 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict and referred the case to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials with the aid of assessors.

127. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors during the year under review was 1,769, with the result that in the case of 1,208 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the case of 258 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 303, he

differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1908 were 1,798, 1,309, 220 and 269, respectively.

128. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 34·8 days in 1908 to 39·9 days in 1909, the figure of the latter year being the highest in the quinquennium. The result may be attributed to the fact that a number of cases arising out of political unrest involved protracted trials during the year under review. Due notice was taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of the 24-Parganas (65 days), Sambalpur (64 days), Balasore (62 days), Patna (552 days), and Howrah (53·9 days). The increase in the duration of cases from 32 days to 65 days in the 24-Parganas, from 35·7 days to 62 days in Balasore, and from 21 days to 53·9 days in Howrah, is noticeable; while there was a satisfactory reduction from 43·6 days to 27·8 days in Burdwan. In the case of the 24-Parganas, it may be noticed, however, that a conspiracy case before the Additional Sessions Judge was concluded during the year under review after a protracted trial of about six months. **Duration of cases.**

129. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 20,260. Of these, 13,393 were examined, and 6,867 discharged without examination. In 1908, the corresponding figures were 13,160 and 6,878, respectively. Of the total number in attendance, 9,318 (46 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 5,321 (26·3 per cent.) on the second day; 2,983 (14·7 per cent.) on the third day; and 2,638 (13· per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day is slightly larger than in 1908. The High Court has taken due notice of the excessive detention of witnesses, in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 47,752, as compared with Rs. 39,607 in 1908. **Witnesses.**

130. Six cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 97 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 87, inclusive of the cases of two European British subjects committed and transferred from the 24-Parganas and Purnea, respectively, were tried during the year, and 16 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 113 persons were tried, of whom 92 were convicted and 21 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 645, and the average duration of cases from commitment 32·7 days, against 43 in 1908. **Commitments, etc., to the High Court.**

III.—High Court Special Bench.

131. Two cases, involving 15 persons, were committed to the High Court for trial by Special Benches under Act XIV of 1908. In one case, 6 persons were committed by the Subdivisional Magistrate of Serampore, and in the other nine were committed by the District Magistrate of Khulna. Of the accused persons in the first case, 4 were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, and the other 2 were acquitted or discharged. The second case remained under trial at the close of the year. 43 witnesses were examined in the case disposed of, and its duration from the date of commitment was 76 days. **Results of cases.**

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

132. At the opening of 1909, there were 54 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of criminal courts. During the year, 631 appeals were preferred, and 652 were decided, leaving 33 pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were 44 and 1 less, respectively, than in the preceding year. The pending file shows a decrease of 21. Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 535 were from Courts of Session, 75 were from Presidency Magistrates, and 11 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Ten appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal. **Appeals.**

Results of appeals.

133. There were 557 appeals against sentences of Courts of Session decided during the year. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 449 instances, reversed in 25 and modified in 67. Sixteen cases were remanded for re-trial. Seventy-seven appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency Town were decided during the year, orders being affirmed in 71 cases, reversed in 5, and modified in 1. Ten appeals from sentences of Deputy Commissioners were decided during the year, the orders being confirmed in all. The results of the appeals decided during the year, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 761 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals sentences on 275 appellants were confirmed, on 161 reduced or altered, and on 147 annulled. In the case of 26, a new trial or further enquiry was ordered.

Appeals against acquittals.

134. Eight appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. Of these, two were against the order of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges in the exercise of their appellate jurisdiction in which the High Court restored the conviction and sentence passed upon the accused by the lower courts. In the third case, the order of acquittal passed by the Court of Session was reversed, and the accused was convicted of the offence of murder and sentenced to transportation for life. The accused in the fourth case, who had been acquitted of the offence of rape by the Court of Session, was ordered to be re-tried. In three cases, the order of acquittal had been passed by magistrates. In two of them, the accused were convicted and sentenced, and in the other a re-trial was ordered by the High Court. The remaining appeal of the Local Government was dismissed.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

135. There were 94 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,545 appeals were preferred, 3,521 were decided, and 123 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 365 less than in 1908. In the appeals decided during 1909, 5,929 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,317 of these, or 39 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 1,680 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 791 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; and 1,058 were acquitted; in the cases of 83 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 67·4, 13·3 and 17·8, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the same proportions were 46·5, 21·8 and 29·2 per cent. These results show little variation as compared with those of the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

136. In the courts of magistrates, there were 184 appeals pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,776 appeals were preferred, 3,757 were decided, and 201 remained pending at its close. Two appeals were transferred to other districts for hearing. The number preferred was more than in 1908 by 24. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by magistrates was 6,916. Of these, the appeals of 1,776 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,727, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 4,503 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 65·1 per cent. Of the remainder, 663 appellants, or 9·5 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,626, or 23·5 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 121 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and the cases of three persons were referred to the High Court. These results were less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

137. Four references, under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, from the verdict of the Jury were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 34 were made during the year. Thirty-three of these references were decided during the year, five remaining undecided at its close. The result of the 33 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 8 cases, set aside in 20, and modified in 5.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

138. Twenty references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences, were made to the High Court during 1909, and 2 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Twenty were decided during the year, and 2 were pending at its close. In the references decided, 26 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 12 was confirmed; in the case of 10 the sentence was commuted to transportation for life; and in the case of one a re-trial was ordered. The remaining 3 persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

139. The cases of six persons, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court. Five cases were disposed of during the year, and one was pending at its close. In the cases disposed of, the convictions were approved and sentences were passed upon the accused persons.

Revision.

140. During the year 152 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and 11 were pending at the opening of the year. The same numbers were decided and remained pending. The number reported was 18 more than in 1908. In 76 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 21 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 13 cases, and enhanced in 3. In the remaining 39 cases the High Court declined to interfere. Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,055 cases, an increase of 167 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,017 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 38 were taken up by it on review of the periodical sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges, or otherwise of its own motion. Of the applications for the issue of rules, 478 were rejected. Of 539 rules issued, 189 were finally discharged, 188 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 75 cases and quashed in 12; in 75 cases a new trial was ordered. In 34 of the 38 cases taken up by the High Court on review of sessions statements, or otherwise of its own motion, the orders passed by the Lower Court were not disturbed; in 2 the sentence was modified; in 1 it was enhanced; and the remaining case was remanded for re-trial.

Applications for transfer.

141. Ninety applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (82 original cases and 8 appeals) from one court or district to another were on the files; and all of them were dealt with during the year. Twenty-six were summarily rejected, and in 2 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 62 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 47 and refused in 15 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

142. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of orders passed on them in the courts of magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 3,349 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The number was more than in 1908 by 148. The applications of 1,491 persons were rejected, and as regards 840, the orders of the lower court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 51 persons were reversed, and in 7 instances proceedings were quashed. The cases of 317 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 643 persons, new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

143. The cases of 2,271 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was less by 245 than in 1908. Of the total, the applications of 1,154 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 378 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 31 persons were modified, and those affecting 233 were reversed. In the cases of 21 persons, proceedings were quashed, and in those of 384 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 70 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

144. The cases of 55 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 79 in the previous year. Of these, 51 were dealt with by magistrates, 2 by Courts of Session, and 2 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, 3 claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases of persons disposed of by magistrates, 32 were convicted and 19 acquitted. The convictions were in 11 cases for offences under special and local laws; in 7 cases for offences affecting the human body; in 12 cases for offences against property; in 1 case for an offence against public health, and in 1 for defamation. The cases before the Court of Session resulted in the acquittal of the accused. Of the cases of the two persons, decided by the High Court, one was committed by the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas for trial for the offence of criminal breach of trust, and the other was transferred by the Sessions Judge of Purnea for trial for the offence of criminal force and assault. The accused in the former case was acquitted and in the latter convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. The largest number of European British subjects were tried in the 24-Parganas (15), and in Burdwan (8).

Results of Criminal work.

145. The year under review was marked by a considerable increase, as compared with the previous year, in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates in the Presidency Town; but there was a small decrease in the amount of work disposed of by the magistrates in the mufassil. The appellate and revisional work disposed of by magistrates shows no noticeable fluctuation. In the Courts of Session there was a sensible decrease of appellate work and a small decrease of sessions work. The revisional work of those courts was, however, slightly heavier than in the preceding year. In the High Court, a considerable increase of revisional work is noticeable; but the appellate work was about the same as in the preceding year. A notable feature of the year's working was the operation of the provisions of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 (XIV of 1908). The results of the trials held before special benches of the High Court are given in paragraph 131 above.

The returns of the lower courts exhibit 50 persons (39 in the 24-Parganas and 11 in the Presidency Town) against 57 in the previous year, as under trial for offences against the state. Of these, 25 were convicted, 23 were acquitted or discharged, and 2 remained under trial at the close of the year. Three persons, viz., 2 in the Presidency Town and 1 in Howrah, were prosecuted under the Newspapers (Incitements to Offences) Act, 1908 (VII of 1908); and all of them were convicted. Three persons were under trial in Midnapore for offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908(VI of 1908); and all of them were convicted. Sixteen persons, viz., 15 in Nadia and 1 in the Presidency Town, were proceeded against under section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code for disseminating seditious matter, but one only was convicted.

The Alipore Conspiracy Case was concluded before the Additional Sessions Judge during the year; and the nineteen accused persons convicted in the case appealed to the High Court. One of the prisoners died pending the hearing of the appeal; one was acquitted; and the conviction of twelve was upheld with modification of sentences. The case of the remaining five prisoners was referred to a third judge under section 429 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The hearing of the reference was concluded after the close of the year, with the result that the conviction of three was reversed and that of two upheld with modification of sentences.

Receipts and Charges.

146. Debiting, as usual, to the Administration of Criminal Justice, a portion of the salaries of Judicial Officers fixed according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 27,70,359. Of this amount, Rs. 15,05,654 were for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 1,29,087 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 78,100 for process-servers; Rs. 3,75,534 for other establishments; and Rs. 6,81,984 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 12,48,002, Of this amount, Rs. 5,74,197 were under fines; Rs. 1,33,299 under process fees; Rs. 1,50,190 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 3,01,570 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and

Rs. 88,746 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded those of 1908 by over Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 84,000, respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

147. The number of cases brought to trial in the scheduled districts of the Sonthal Parganas and Angul (including Khondmals) was 6,300, a decrease of 705, in 1908. The total number of persons under trial including those remaining from the previous year was 9,554, of whom 4,003 were acquitted or discharged and 5,243 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial 1,125 were for theft, 789 for criminal force and assault, 670 for criminal trespass and 2,109 for offences under special and local laws. The punishment of whipping was inflicted in 121 cases, being less than 8 per cent. of the cases in which it might have been awarded. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 668, of whom 119 were wholly or partly successful in their applications. Sonthal Parganas and Angul.

Jails.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department for the year 1909. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

148. The outstanding feature of the previous year's report was the great increase in the jail population. During the year 1909 the daily average population showed a still further increase, being 17,108 compared with 16,739 in 1908, and 15,275 in 1907. The main increase took place in the first seven months of the year, the maximum being reached in July. There are, however, signs of some relief. The total number of prisoners admitted during the year fell from 101,485 to 89,081. The daily average of prisoners under trial fell from 2,249 in 1908 to 2,005 in 1909, and the total number of under-trial prisoners admitted, fell from 44,804 to 37,484. Jail population.

149. The average period of detention of prisoners under trial in sessions cases was 35 days compared with 34 in the previous year. Prisoners under trial in other cases were detained for an average period of 15 days compared with 17½ in 1908. Detention of under-trial prisoners.

150. The total number of prisoners for whom accommodation is provided in all jails in the province (excluding hospital accommodation) is 14,815 convicts and 1,895 under trial. The daily average population during the year was 15,066 convicts and 2,005 under-trial prisoners. The accommodation provided for females, juveniles and sick prisoners is, as a rule, adequate in all jails, but the male convict accommodation in central and district jails provides for 13,264 prisoners only, whereas the daily average number of male convicts amounted in 1909 to 14,458. Out of the 37 central and district jails in the province, 23 were overcrowded throughout the year. The situation was met, as in the previous year, by accommodating prisoners in hospitals, workshops and temporary huts; but such expedients can no longer be deemed permissible. A measure of relief has been obtained through the opening of the new central jail at Alipore, which has accommodation for 1,390 prisoners, but this too is merely a temporary expedient as the old Presidency Jail, which has accommodation for 1,291 prisoners, will have to be evacuated within three years at the most. It is essential, therefore, to increase the accommodation available in the central jails, and this can only be done effectually and permanently by building a new central jail. Jail accommodation.

So long as the jails are overcrowded, as at present, it is impossible to take satisfactory measures for the classification of male convicts, and little can be done beyond temporary measures for the segregation of prisoners on admission. The new central jail should be built on the most modern lines, as a special jail for the accommodation of habitual criminals, where a more rigorous system of jail discipline will be enforced. To this jail will be removed the worst of the criminal population of the province, and through the relief thus obtained the central jails will be enabled to accommodate the long-term convicts, at present incarcerated in district jails, which are not intended for prisoners undergoing sentences in excess of six months.

Mortality.

151. In spite of the overcrowding, the mortality decreased from 31·1 per mille in 1908 to 24·5 per mille in 1909, a figure which compares favourably with the average of preceding years. If the mortality of the Hazaribagh Central Jail, which reached the high figure of 71·5, be excluded, the rate for the province was only 21·3. Twenty-four jails showed a decrease of mortality in 1909. The high rate in Hazaribagh has received the anxious consideration of Government, and the report of Captain Wells, I.M.S., who was deputed to make a special investigation into the causes of this high rate, is awaited. There were, throughout the jails of the province, only four deaths from cholera. There was a decrease in the number of deaths from tuberculosis. The desirability of providing special accommodation for prisoners suffering from this disease has long been recognized, and when the much needed relief is obtained through the building of a new central jail, it is hoped that it will be possible to set apart special wards for such prisoners.

Jail manufactures.

152. Although there was an increase in the number of prisoners employed on jail manufactures, there was a decline in the cash earnings of the Department, and the total earnings amounted to Rs. 4,90,292 compared with Rs. 4,56,127 in 1908, Rs. 5,37,107 in 1907 and Rs. 6,32,679 in 1906. The decrease in cash earnings is attributable to the absence of orders from other departments of Government due to scarcity of funds and the consequent accumulation of unsold stocks in the jail godowns, and to an increase in the amount of work done for the jail departments of this and other provinces, the value of which is not shown under the head "Cash earnings." It has been decided to hold a special enquiry into this subject.

System of guarding prisoners.

153. There was an increase in the number of punishments inflicted on warders from 1,583 to 1,955. The present system, under which the duty of guarding prisoners is largely entrusted to convicts employed as warders, overseers and watchmen, has been condemned on more than one occasion. The system is economical, but efficiency and discipline must necessarily suffer. There are at present in the jails of the province 1,531 paid warders and 2,840 convict officers, a figure which represents more than one-third of the A class prisoners. Of the convict officers, 199 are employed as warders, 759 as overseers and 1,882 as watchmen. The improvement of the warder system can be effected only gradually as funds permit; meanwhile, the new juvenile jail at Alipore has been officered entirely by paid guards and the same system will be followed in the new central jail for habitual prisoners. An important reform sanctioned during the year was the formation of two circle reserves of warders, the one at Alipore, the other at Buxar, in which recruits are being trained to fill vacancies occurring in the central and district jails within the circle.

Assistance to prisoners after release.

154. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society of Calcutta continued to do good work. They assisted 68 discharged prisoners in addition to 29 employed in their book-binding workshop. The annual grant of Rs. 3,000 from the Claude Martin Fund was received from the Commissioner of Police, and 2,020 released convicts received aid from this source, usually sufficient to enable them to reach their homes.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1909. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Changes in Jurisdiction.

155. The permanently-settled estates of Tazpur and Taranpur were transferred from the Ballia district in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh to the district of Shahabad in Bengal.

Judicial Staff.

156. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the province during 1909 consisted of 14 High Court Judges; 20 District Judges; 1 Additional District Judge; a Chief Judge and four Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; 2 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 36 Subordinate Judges; and 170 Munsifs. In addition, 8 executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 6 the powers of a Munsif.

Upon the division of the joint cadre of the judicial branch of the Provincial Civil Service, with effect from the beginning of the year, 2 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, 34 Subordinate Judges and 170 Munsifs were allotted to the province of Bengal. Two temporary Subordinate Judges, sanctioned from the beginning of the year, were added to the permanent staff with effect from the 31st October, the number of permanent Subordinate Judges being thus raised to 36 as mentioned above. In addition to the permanent staff, an Additional Judge was employed in the High Court from the 2nd January to the 25th March, during the deputation of a permanent Judge for the inspection of the mufassal courts; and a temporary fifteenth Judge assisted the High Court during the year. The appointment of a second Additional District Judge for land acquisition work in the 24-Parganas was continued, and a third Additional Judge was employed in the same district during the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted.

157. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1908 was 958, including 11 pending suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1909 was 1,225, including 14 suits received by transfer from other courts and 4 remanded for re-trial during the year, making a total of 2,183 for disposal in 1909. Of the suits instituted during 1909, 740 were for money or moveable property, 109 were mortgage suits, and 56 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 78,13,804-1-2, as compared with Rs. 82,82,761-1-3 in the previous year.

Original suits decided.

158. The number of suits decided in 1909 was 1,082, and the number pending at the end of the year was 1,101. The number of suits under trial was 143 more than at the commencement of the year. There were 352 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 116 on the figures of the previous year. Of the suits decided, 190 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 14 were withdrawn with leave, 36 were determined by compromise, 63 were decreed on confession, 331 were decreed *ex parte*, 9 were dismissed *ex parte*, 3 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, and 290 were decreed, and 146 were dismissed after contest.

Cases under the Extraordinary Jurisdiction.

159. At the commencement of the year 3 suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and 3 suits were transferred to it during the year. One of them was decided during the year and 5 remained pending at its close.

Probates and Letters of Administration, etc.

160. The court disposed of 439 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 4,677 interlocutory applications. Of the interlocutory applications, the Registrar, and the Master, as usual, disposed of those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, and for summonses as to chamber applications.

References to take accounts, etc.

161. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year, was 155. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 281 cases. Of the total number of references, 295 were disposed of by the Registrar and the Official Referee and their Assistants.

Proclamations under Order XXI, Rule 66.

162. During the year, the Registrar settled the proclamations of sale by the Sheriff in the ordinary course of execution in 31 cases, in all of which it was found necessary to examine witnesses. He also settled 29 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 46 cases under the Civil Procedure Code, and in 142 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

163. The number of appeals from the original to the appellate side of the court pending at the commencement of 1909 was 57, and 62 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, 6 were dismissed for default and 50 were decided; the decrees of the court of first instance were affirmed in 25 cases,

modified in 2, and reversed in 19. Four cases were remanded for re trial. Sixty-three appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, of which five were pending more than two years

Transfers from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

164. Eight cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act, were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 11 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 19 cases for disposal, 4 were decreed and 2 dismissed after trial, and 2 were decreed on confession. The remaining 11 cases were pending at the close of the year. Two applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure to call for records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 12 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 2 applications were refused, in 8 cases the rule was discharged, and in one case the High Court called for the record and directed a re-hearing by the Small Cause Court. Three cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

165. The number of cases pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 299, and the number instituted during the year was 312. Of the 611 cases for disposal, 226 were decided, the adjudication being set aside or superseded in 49 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 177. Of the persons who sought relief in these cases, 96 were traders within the meaning of the Insolvency Act, 80 were private persons, and 40 were persons employed in public and other offices.

Miscellaneous applications.

166. The court also disposed of 48 applications for *ad interim* protection, and 1,902 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Duration of sittings.

167. For the hearing of original suits and applications, one judge sat alone for 21 days, two judges sat separately and simultaneously for 127 days, and three judges sat separately and simultaneously for 52 days. The Insolvent Court engaged the time of one judge for 21 days. Appeals from the original side occupied a bench of three judges for 22 days, and a bench of two judges for the same number of days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

168. Three appeals from the original side were pending from the previous year, and one was admitted during the year.

Receipts and Expenditure.

169. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the original side during 1909 were Rs. 7,10,702-13-8 and Rs. 3,94,047-13-2, respectively.

Taxing Office.

170. The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows:—

Between party and party	...	...	... 758
„ attorney and client	...	...	... 374

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 20,857. This sum is also included in the item "Other fees realized by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Jurisdiction.

171. Mauzas Rampur Rudar, Ubhawa and Sarangpur were re-transferred from the jurisdiction of thana Masrakh in the district of Saran to that of thana Paru in the district of Muzaffarpur.

Original suits instituted.

172. The number of suits instituted in 1909 was 389,438, an increase of 9,279 on the figures of the previous year. The increase occurred in each class of suits; the institutions for money, rent and title suits showing increases of 3, 2·2 and 1·2 per cent., respectively. The number of money suits instituted was 147,806, against 143,389 in 1908. The total value of suits instituted in 1909 amounted to Rs. 13,93,07,185, showing an increase of over five and a half crores over the total for 1908. The increase is due chiefly to the institution of two title suits, each valued at about three crores, in the districts of Patna and Shahabad. The above figure, however, does not include the value of 370 suits of the district of Saran, the records of which were destroyed by fire.

Local distribution.

173. Excluding Jessore and Khulna, the figures of which admit of no comparison, as those districts were constituted separate judgeships in the latter half of the year 1908, there was an increase in the number of suits instituted in 1909, as compared with the preceding year, in all

the districts with the exception of Birbhum, Hooghly, Burdwan, Shahabad, Darbhanga and Bankura. The increase was most marked in Patna, Cuttack and Midnapore. The increase in Patna occurred chiefly in rent suits as a consequence of survey and settlement proceedings. In Cuttack and Midnapore the increase is conspicuous in money suits, and is attributed in the former district to a good harvest and in the latter to a gradual improvement in local trade in consequence of the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The decline in institutions in Birbhum and Burdwan is ascribed to a good harvest, but as the same explanation is offered in the case of an increase elsewhere, the explanation does not appear to be sound. In Hooghly the decrease was most marked in money suits, for which no reason has been given, and in the other districts the fluctuation calls for no notice. Including Jessore and Khulna, the largest number of suits (41,597) was instituted in the district of the 24-Parganas. In Midnapore and Jessore, institutions were between 40,000 and 30,000. The largest number of rent and title suits (19,830 and 6,560, respectively) was instituted in Midnapore. The second place in respect of the institution of title suits is occupied by the 24-Parganas. Institutions were between 20,000 and 30,000 in the districts of Nadia, Bhagalpur, Hooghly, Murshidabad and Cuttack; and between 10,000 and 20,000 in Purnea, Khulna, Muzaffarpur, Burdwan, Saran, Darbhanga, Bankura, Birbhum and Chota Nagpur. In Patna and Shahabad institutions were between 5,000 and 10,000. Gaya, with 2,818, continues to show the lowest number of institutions.

174. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show:— Nature of suits instituted.

Rs.		Suits for money and moveables. Rs.	Suits under the Rent Law. Rs.	Title and other suits. Rs.
Not exceeding 10	...	14,645	52,465	2,635
Not exceeding 50	...	72,111	92,014	12,092
Not exceeding 100	...	29,796	26,950	9,100
Not exceeding 500	...	27,639	18,792	18,086
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated	...	3,615	2,292	7,206
Total	...	1,47,806	1,92,513	49,119

In suits for money or moveables 58·6 per cent., and in rent suits 75 per cent., were for sums less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 98·3 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 41 per cent. were mortgage suits, 45·6 for immoveable property, and 5·2 for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value over three-fourths of the total litigation of the province. Of the 58 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, 53 were title suits, and 5 were money suits.

175. In addition to the 389,438 suits instituted during the year and the 74,659 suits pending trial from the previous year, there were 8,474 suits revived, or received on remand or review, during the year, making a total for disposal of 472,571. The number decided was 387,138, showing an increase of 1,165 on the figures of 1908. Number and result of suits decided.

Of this total 363,775 were decided by Munsifs, 11,390 by Subordinate Judges, 11,521 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 452 by District and Additional Judges. Plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 77,136 cases, or 19·9 per cent., of which 53,184 were dismissed for default; in 69,273 cases, or 17·9 per cent., a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 240,729 cases, or 62·2 per cent. The results show little variation, as compared with the preceding year. Of the 65,718 suits decided on contest; 53,483, or 81·3 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 12,235, or 18·7 per cent., in favour of defendants.

176. The percentage of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex-parte* was 6·8, the numbers being 15,949 and 2,31,865, respectively. The applications were successful in 7,453 cases, or 46·7 per cent. Applications for re-trial.

Suits decided by munsifs.

177. The suits decided by munsifs were 1,623 more than in the last year. The increase, however, is under uncontested suits, which rose from 3,02,028 to 304,305, the number of contested suits having decreased from 60,124 to 59,470. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 26·5 per cent. of the total. The average number of suits decided by each munsif employed throughout the year was 2,066. The number of contested suits of which munsifs disposed in 1909 was 59,470, or 16·3 per cent. of the total, while the average number of contested suits decided by each munsif was 337. In suits under the ordinary procedure decided by munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 17·5, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure 12·9. The number of cases decided by munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows a decrease of 1,474, as compared with 1908.

Suits heard by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.

178. The number of original suits decided by Subordinate Judges in 1909 was 11,390, an increase of 138 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided under the Small Cause Court procedure and occurred in both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,586, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6,804; of these 42·3 per cent. and 20·4 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentages show no striking difference, as compared with the previous year. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 11,521 original suits, of which 2,764 were contested.

Average duration of cases.

179. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement:—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under Ordinary Procedure ...	Contested	222	298	151	...
	Uncontested	175	179	84	...
Under Small Cause Court Procedure	Contested	...	63	51	64
	Uncontested	...	45	36	42

The results show an improvement in the duration of all classes of suits tried by munsifs and Small Cause Court Judges. An improvement is also noticed in the duration of suits tried under the ordinary procedure by Subordinate Judges, and in that of uncontested suits tried under the same procedure by District Judges. There was an appreciable increase, as compared with the preceding year, in the duration of contested suits tried under the ordinary procedure by District Judges, and a slight increase in the duration of suits tried under the Small Cause Court Procedure by Subordinate Judges.

Pending suits.

180. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 85,663, as against 74,659 in the previous year. The increase of the pending file is accounted for, to some extent, by the larger number of institutions. Of the pending cases, 594 had been pending for more than a year, 9,357 for more than six months, and 36,864 for more than three months. The figures show a sensible reduction in the number of suits pending for more than a year. Of the suits pending over one year, 157 were in the courts of munsifs, and 437 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 83 and an increase of 3, respectively, on the figures of 1908.

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Hooghly (88); Muzaffarpur (76); Bankura (55); Darbhanga (52); Chota Nagpur (48); Burdwan (41); and the 24-Parganas (40). In Hooghly the long pending file shows a sensible improvement as compared with 1908, but the number of year old suits before the superior courts is still large. In Muzaffarpur the number of year old suits was less than in the previous year, and it is noticed that a considerable proportion of these was delayed by adjournments given on the application of the parties. The same reason accounts for the delay in a large number of cases in Darbhanga. All of the long

pending suits but five in Bankura were pending before the superior courts, and in view of the fact that an Additional Subordinate Judge was employed in this district for a considerable portion of the year, the result cannot be considered satisfactory. In Chota Nagpur, the greater number of the long pending suits belonged to the court of the special Subordinate Judge of Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Palamau, and the delay is attributed to the institution of a large number of title suits of a complicated character before that officer. The number pending in Burdwan shows a sensible decrease, as compared with the previous year, and the result is on the whole satisfactory, in view of the reduction effected in the appellate file. In the 24-Parganas, the file of long pending suits is the same as in the previous year, and it is noticed that some of these cases were delayed by order of the Appellate Court or for similar reasons. Moreover, a smaller staff of Subordinate Judges was employed in this district than in the previous year. Additional assistance was given to those districts where the files appeared to be too heavy for the normal staff.

Execution proceedings.

181. There were 61,971 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 258,445 such applications were made during the year. Realisation was complete in 95,561 cases and partial in 55,523. In 104,181 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 58,044 remained pending at the close of the year. As in previous years, execution proceedings in the district of Cuttack were most markedly unsuccessful, the percentage of totally infructuous proceedings being very high (61·6 per cent.). The further increase in the percentage is particularly unsatisfactory, in view of the fact that the attention of the District Judge was called to the matter in the previous year. The total amount realised in courts other than Small Cause Courts, was Rs. 1,52,50,642. Debtors were imprisoned in 141 cases, moveable property was sold in 4,691, and immoveable in 41,455.

Miscellaneous cases.

182. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted fell from 57,207 in 1908 to 53,452. The number decided fell from 58,829 to 53,884, and the number pending rose from 12,621 to 12,702. Of the former 23,733 were withdrawn, compromised or admitted, 13,922 were decided *ex parte*, and 16,229 were contested. Of the total number of applications decided after contest, 52·9 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 72 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in Hooghly (31).

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 11,418 in number, showing a decrease of 580, as compared with the preceding year. Of these, over two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 11,383, and the pending file rose to 1,343. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was, as usual, highest in Hooghly (1,754), followed by the 24-Parganas (880), Shahabad (686), Midnapore (662), and Bhagalpur (605). The figures show a large increase in the number of such applications in Hooghly, owing, it is stated, to a dispute between the landlords and tenants of certain villages within the jurisdiction of the Ulubaria Munsifi.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

183. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1909, and the number pending at its close, were 23,821, 25,253 and 2,640, respectively. These figures show an increase of 10,801 and 216, respectively, as compared with the previous year. The total value of the litigation in the court was Rs. 42,69,872 during the year, as against Rs. 43,04,648 in the preceding year.

Mode of disposal.

184. Of the 25,253 suits of the year, 1,813 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 19,783 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 3,653 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 4 the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised ...	6,540
Decreed on confession ...	4,611
Decreed ex-parte ...	8,623
Dismissed ex-parte ...	9
Total ...	19,783

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the letters patent.

185. Under section 15 of the letters patent, there were 62 appeals filed during the year, and 57 were pending at its commencement. Of the total 56 were decided, and 63 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals decided was 22 more than in 1908. Of those undecided, 5 were pending for more than two years. 150 third appeals were filed during the year, and 99 were pending at its commencement. Of these appeals, 108 were decided, and 141 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

186. The number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts as courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the past year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the courts of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The institutions of first appeals from orders and of second appeals from decrees were, respectively, 42 and 366 more than in 1908. The number of first appeals from decrees and of second appeals from orders, on the other hand, was less by 69 and 106, respectively, than that of the preceding year.

	Pending at the end of 1908.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1909.
FIRST APPEALS.				
From decrees ...	1,146	603	433	1,316
From orders ...	314	350	251	413
SECOND APPEALS.				
From decrees ...	3,518	3,333	2,259	4,597
From orders ...	267	258	300	225
TOTAL ...	5,245	4,549	3,243	6,551

Appeals pending.

187. At the close of the year, there were pending 1,729 first appeals, of which 1,316 were from decrees and 413 from orders, 4,822 second appeals, of which 4,597 were from decrees. The total is more than the number pending at the close of 1908 by 1,306.

Results of appeals.

188. Of the 433 appeals from original decrees decided during the year, 57 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 238 decrees of the lower courts were confirmed, 54 reversed, 43 varied, and 41 remanded. Of the 2,259 appeals from appellate decrees decided during the year, 96 were uncontested, and 840 were dealt with under Order XLI, Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code. 1,323 were heard and determined, with the result that 911 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 145 reversed, 41 varied and 226 remanded. Of the 551 appeals from orders decided during the last year, 32 were uncontested, 121 were dealt with under Order XLI, Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 398 were decided after trial. Of the last, 269 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 93 reversed, 6 varied and 30 remanded. The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

		Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from	original decrees ...	89	149	29	68
	appellate decrees ...	322	589	94	92
Miscellaneous appeals ...	...	127	142	52	47

Appeals to the Privy Council.

189. At the opening of the year 60 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 67 were pending for orders. Twenty-four new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 47 were struck off or compromised, 21 were despatched to England, and 83 appeals—1 of 1902, 6 of 1906, 19 of 1907, 38 of 1908, and 19 of

1909—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 46 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

190. The results of 7 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 5 instances, and reversed in 2. Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

191. There were 13,488 appeals instituted in 1909, an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 12. The increase in the appellate work coming before the Courts is disproportionately small when compared with the increase in the disposals of original suits, but it is noticeable that the number of appeals instituted shows a continuous increase since 1905. Of the number instituted in 1909, 6,152 were in rent suits, 5,786 in title suits, and 1,550 in suits for money or moveables. The number shows an increase in the institution of appeals in title and money suits, but a decrease in rent suits. The total value of the appeals was Rs. 28,93,542, being more than the total of 1908 by over Rs. 47,000. Excluding Jessore and Khulna, the number of appeals instituted in 1909 was larger than in the previous year in 9 districts, and smaller in the same number. The largest increases were in Hooghly (315), Bhagalpur (167), in each of which districts a large number of appeals was preferred against the decisions of Settlement Officers, Bankura (130), and Cuttack (101); and the noticeable decreases were in Murshidabad (599), where there was a considerable fall in the number of settlement appeals, Nadia (350), Midnapore (307) and Patna (266). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100. Appeals instituted.

192. The number of appeals decided (13,156) was more by 174 than in 1908. Disposals increased in the courts of District and Additional Judges by 1,129, but fell in those of Subordinate Judges by 955, as compared with the previous year. Excluding Jessore and Khulna, the general increase in disposals was spread over 10 districts, the largest being in Murshidabad (670), Bhagalpur (641) and Midnapore (394). The noticeable decreases, on the other hand, were in Purnea (696) and the 24-Parganas (567). In Murshidabad and Bhagalpur a considerable number of the appeals disposed of were settlement appeals, while the increase in the disposal of appellate work in Midnapore was due to the larger staff employed during the year. The falling off in disposals in Purnea is explained by the fact that in 1908 a large number of special appeals were decided by a Special Judge, while in the 24-Parganas the decrease is due to the absence of one of the Subordinate Judges for a considerable portion of the year. Appeals decided.

193. There were 8,057 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 490 more than at the end of 1908. The number of appeals pending was higher than in any of the previous years since 1898. The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased from 257 in 1908 to 304 at the close of the year under review. Appeals pending.

194. The result of the decisions of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 6,433 cases, or 48·8 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,701 cases, or 12·9 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,640, or 20 per cent., it was reversed. The results are noticeably unfavourable to the lower courts, the proportion of judgments affirmed in appeal being the lowest since 1905. 706 appeals were remanded, and 1,676 were either not prosecuted, or dismissed for default. Results of appeals.

195. The year under review was marked by a large increase in the institutions of original suits in the mufassal courts. The disposals, though in excess of the number of the previous year, failed to keep pace with the institutions, and there was accordingly a considerable increase in the pending file, as compared with 1908. The number of suits disposed of by munsifs was larger in the aggregate, but there was a falling off in contested cases in these courts. A sensible reduction was effected in the number of suits pending more than a year, of which the greater proportion was under trial before the superior courts. The appellate file was marked by a slight increase in. General.

institutions, and by a considerably smaller outturn by Subordinate Judges. This is disappointing, in view of the fact that they disposed of only a few more contested suits than in the previous year. It is a matter for satisfaction however that the efforts of District and Additional Judges to keep down the appellate files resulted in a considerable increase in the disposals by those officers, and that the greater number of the appeals decided by them were contested. This result is especially gratifying in view of the fact that District and Additional Judges were able to devote only 2,511 days, or 61 less than in the preceding year, to the disposal of civil business. The appellate arrears outstanding at the end of 1909 were heavier than at the end of the preceding year. The progressive increase of business on the appellate side of the High Court continued during the year under review which, coupled with the fall in disposals, resulted in a further increase of the pending file. It may be noticed that the effect of the assistance afforded by the temporary appointment of a fifteenth judge was neutralised by the necessity for appointing special benches constituted under the provisions of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, as well as by the time which the criminal bench was required to devote to the hearing of protracted conspiracy cases.

Inspection.

196. The courts of 19 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 85 munsifs were inspected by District Judges during the year 1909. Of these, four munsifs' courts were inspected for a second time during the year. The total number of courts inspected was noticeably larger than in the previous year, and still better results may be expected in the future; but it is not always possible for a District Judge to devote as much time to inspection work as he might desire to do. In three districts only (Birbhum, Gaya and Darbhanga) was the full amount of inspection done, while the number of inspections was noticeably small in Bankura, Nadia, Cuttack and 24-Parganas. In the High Court's review of the annual reports of the several districts, the attention of those District Judges, whose inspections appeared to have been inadequate, has been drawn to the matter.

Provincial Insolvency Act, III of 1907.

197. The Provincial Insolvency Act, 1907 (III of 1907), and the rules framed by the High Court under section 51 of that act, are reported to have worked on the whole satisfactorily; but the change in the law is of so recent a date that the court is not able to estimate its full effect.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

198. The receipts of the civil courts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 87,42,317, an increase of Rs. 2,34,404 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 43,77,313, an increase of Rs. 47,532 on those of 1908. Including the amount realised on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 43,65,004 or Rs. 1,86,872 more than in 1908, and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 36,70,716.

	Rs.
In the High Court . .	(a) 5,59,128
In other courts . . .	(a) 1,35,160
	*6,94,288

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1909-10.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

Angul and the Sonthal Parganas.

199. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the civil courts in the scheduled districts of Angul (including the Khondmals) and the Sonthal Parganas was 14,992. The number of money suits was 8,670, of rent suits 5,476, and of title and other suits 846. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 17,491. The number disposed of (including the number of suits transferred to courts in other provinces) was 15,518; of this number 3,243 suits were contested and 373 were disposed of by arbitration. The total number of appeals from decrees presented to the civil appellate courts of the districts was 639, and the number disposed of was 570. Out of 118 miscellaneous civil appeals, 109 were decided. 12,725 applications were made for execution of decrees, of which the courts disposed of 10,189 before the end of the year.

Registration.

[Statistical returns showing the operations under the Registration Act in Bengal during 1909. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Changes.

200. One temporary Sub-Registry office, which was opened on the 14th January 1909 at Sathi in the district of Champaran, was closed on the 22nd August 1909. Four Joint Sub-Registry offices—one at Madhubani in Darbhanga, one at Jagatsingpur in Cuttack, one at Narayanpur in Bhagalpur and one at Gumla in Ranchi—were opened temporarily, of which the last two were closed within 3 months.

Statistics.

201. The total number of registration of documents, affecting immoveable property, moveable property and wills, decreased from 1,057,347 in 1908 to 1,035,965 in 1909, *i.e.*, by 2·6 per cent., while the total income of the department decreased from Rs. 13,96,938 in 1908 to Rs. 13,71,673 in 1909, *i.e.*, by 1·8 per cent., a natural consequence of the decrease in registrations, and the total expenditure decreased from Rs. 7,76,142 in 1908 to Rs. 7,28,690 in 1909, *i.e.*, by 6·1 per cent.

Registrations in the various divisions.

Burdwan.

202. Registrations decreased in 1909, as compared with 1908, in all the districts of the division. The crops of 1909 were satisfactory and as a result mortgages and sales fell off. In Burdwan and Birbhum, however, perpetual leases increased by 30·5 per cent. and 55·8 per cent., respectively, and leases for terms of years also increased by 27·1 per cent. and 14·9 per cent. The increases in Burdwan are ascribed partly to the settlement of *chakran* lands and partly to the dulness of the coal trade, which led to the leasing out of colliery lands to tenants. The increase in perpetual leases in Birbhum is reported to be due to the fact that *patni* leases are looked upon with favour by landlords and middlemen in that district. The fact seems to be that, with the return of agricultural prosperity, raiyats and middlemen were able to take settlement of more lands.

Presidency.

203. The districts of this division tell the same tale of agricultural prosperity, leading to a decrease in sales, mortgages and bonds. In the district of the 24-Parganas, simultaneously with large decreases in these classes of documents, the number of perpetual leases was nearly the same in 1909, as compared with 1908, and the number of leases for terms of years increased by 6·9 per cent. These facts indicated returning prosperity and normal conditions. It is reported that there was a greater demand for lands for cultivation, and that the completion of the Diamond Harbour drainage scheme proved a boon to cultivators, as it enabled them to bring under cultivation lands which had remained uncultivated for successive years. A bumper crop was the result of such cultivation in 1909.

Patna.

204. In the district of Patna the total number of registrations decreased by 5·2 per cent. in 1909, as compared with 1908, while in Shahabad, registrations increased by 6·5 per cent., and in Gaya there was only a nominal decrease (2·3 per cent.). It is reported from Gaya that the distress of the previous years continued to be felt. The bulk of the decrease in Patna was contributed by a large fall in the number of leases for terms of years caused by the attitude of the Settlement Department which refused to accept newly registered documents as evidence of rent paid in previous years. The increase in Shahabad is said to be due partly to the scarcity which prevailed in parts of the district and partly to the survey and settlement operations.

Tirhut

205. Registrations increased in all the districts of the division, the increases in Champaran, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur (35·5 per cent., 30·9 per cent., and 24·7 per cent. respectively) being remarkable. The increases are said to be due chiefly to the fact that scarcity and high prices of food-grains prevailed in the early part of 1909, conditions improving only during the latter part of the year. In Champaran, however, the bulk of the increase was due to an accidental cause, viz., the registration of a large number of agreements for supplying sugarcane and for paying irrigation charges at Rs. 3 per bigha per annum, executed by the tenants of Sathi, Matiara, Parsa, Sirikohia and Harpur indigo concerns. A temporary office had to be opened at Sathi to facilitate such registration. In Darbhanga, 1909

was a famine year and the registration figures of the year have beaten all past records, even those of 1907. A temporary office had to be opened at Madhubani to meet the pressure of registration, and the Registrar has reported that no district in Bengal had the misfortune to face such distress as prevailed in Darbhanga.

Bhagalpur. 206. Registrations increased in 1909, as compared with the previous year, in Bhagalpur (25·4 per cent.), Monghyr (13·8 per cent.), and Purnea (16·6 per cent.) and decreased in Darjeeling (43 per cent.) and Sonthal Parganas (14·9 per cent.). The increases are mainly ascribed to high prices of food-grains, which continued till late in the year under review, and occurred principally under heads "mortgages" and "sales." In Bhagalpur, there was also a large increase in leases for terms of years (65·9 per cent.), chiefly due to the fact that a large number of *kabuliyats* were executed by the tenants of certain zamindars, to facilitate the registration of which a temporary office had to be opened at Narayanpur. The decrease in Darjeeling is ascribed to the absence of the special cause of increase in 1908, viz., the registration of a large number of leases of the Ruling Court of Wards' estates. In the Sonthal Parganas, the decrease is ascribed partly to the falling off in the prices of food-grains, on account of good harvests, and partly to the introduction of Regulation III of 1908, which not only prohibits the transfer of *raiyati* holdings in contravention of the record-of-rights, prepared at the settlement, but makes it incumbent on registering officers to refuse registration of all deeds relating to such transfers. Bonds in this district decreased by 25·6 per cent. and deeds of sale of moveable property decreased by 90·7 per cent. in 1909, as compared with 1908. The latter decrease is said to be due to the discontinuance of the execution of deeds of sale of *sabai* grass in favour of the *mahajans* of Sahebganj.

Orissa. 207. Registrations decreased in all the districts of this division, except Sambalpur, where there was a slight increase of 67 deeds. The general cause of decrease is said to be the better harvests of the year under report and consequent easy prices of food-grains.

Chota Nagpur. 208. There were decreases in registrations in Manbhum (8·4 per cent.), Ranchi (16·2 per cent.) and Palamau (10·5 per cent.) and only nominal increases in Hazaribagh and Singhbhum. The general cause of decrease was the good outturn of crops during the year under review. In Ranchi, the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Amendment Act, VI of 1908, was effective in materially reducing registrations under heads "leases" (perpetual and for terms of years) and "sales."

Working of the Indian Companies Act. 209. The number of companies limited by shares, existing at the close of the year, was 543 with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 48,63,58,954 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 24,90,12,326, against 530 with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 47,44,66,459 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 23,05,52,551 in the preceding year. The number of companies limited by guarantee which worked during the year was twenty-three, an increase of 2.

The number of new companies limited by shares registered was 36 with a total nominal capital of Rs. 95,20,000 and paid-up capital of Rs. 2,00,360. The number of new companies limited by guarantee registered was three, against seven in the preceding year. Of these two were clubs.

One hundred and thirty companies increased their capital during the year, six companies only their nominal capital, one-hundred and seventeen their paid-up capital and the remaining seven both their nominal and paid-up capitals. Two companies reduced their paid-up capital. Twenty-three companies went into liquidation and eight were finally dissolved. Six companies, which went into liquidation in previous years, submitted their final reports during the year. One company limited by guarantee went into liquidation during the year. As far as could be ascertained, most companies complied with the provision of section 69 of the Act.

During the year, criminal prosecutions were instituted against two companies, viz., the Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturing Company of India, Limited, and the Swadeshi Assurance and Wedding Company, Limited. The former was fined Rs. 20 by the Subdivisional Officer of Kalna, under sections 50 and 74 of the Act, and the latter Rs. 30 by the District Magistrate of Puri under section 66 of the Act.

210. The following nine societies were registered under Act XXI of 1860 during the year:— Working of Act XXI of 1860.

(1) The Ramkrishna Mission; (2) Aheeritolah Banga Bidyalaya; (3) The Sri Bharat Duhitri Siksha Parisat; (4) The Financial Board of the Bengal Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; (5) The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science; (6) The Calcutta Homœopathic Hospital Society; (7) Bhumihar Brahman College, otherwise called the Tirhut College; (8) Anjuman Islamia, Darjeeling; (9) and All-India Kurmi-Kshatriya Association.

The fees levied during the year under report amounted to Rs. 12,565-8 against Rs. 26,658-15, realised in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 14,093-7. During the year, trade was dull and the nominal capital of the companies registered was small.

211. Twenty-one Brahmo marriages were registered during the year, as compared with twenty-seven in 1908. Eighteen were registered in Calcutta, and one each in Balasore, Bhagalpur and Jessore. Of the seventeen Marriage Registrars under the Act and twenty-four *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars, only eleven Marriage Registrars and one *ex-officio* Marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The age of bridegrooms ranged from about 21 to 45 and that of brides from 15 to 30 years. One widow aged 30 years was re-married. Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act, III of 1872.

212. As in the three preceding years, Act I (B.C.) of 1876, for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces, was in force in 18 districts. The total number of Registration offices at the close of the year had increased from 124 to 125, owing to the re-opening of the office of the Muhammadan Marriage Registrar and Kazi of Suri in the district of Birbhum. Registrations took place in 102 of the offices open, as against only 90 last year, while the total number of ceremonies registered rose from 3,587 to 3,790. The act is generally popular in Calcutta and its suburbs. Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of divisions on the working of municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during the year 1909-1910. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

213. The number of municipalities in the province during the year was 130, as compared with 128 in 1908-09. Two new municipalities were created at Dhulian in the district of Murshidabad, and at Madhupur in the Sonthal Parganas, respectively. Number.

214. General elections of Commissioners were held in 53 municipalities, at which the percentage of attendance of voters ranged from 92·6 in one ward of the North Dum-Dum Municipality, to less than 3 in three wards of the Monghyr Municipality; but in the Burdwan and Presidency divisions it is reported generally that the elections were keenly contested. In several municipalities, however, notably in Kurseong, no interest whatever was evinced in the election. In the Patna Municipality votes are said to have been bought openly, but it is not clear whether any seats were actually secured by this means. A material extension of the elective system has been effected since the close of the year, and the names of 18 municipalities have been removed from the first Schedule to the Act, which specifies the localities in which the Commissioners are appointed by the Local Government. Elections.

215. The total number of meetings held was 2,121, of which 130 were adjourned, but seven municipalities held less than one meeting a month. On the whole the attendance of Commissioners at meetings was fairly satisfactory. Attendance at meetings.

216. The total number of rate-payers rose from 418,105 to 420,364, the new municipality of Dhulian contributing 1,492 to the increase. Number of rate-payers.

217. In 54 municipalities, and in portions of the South Dum-Dum, South Barrackpore, Bhadreswar, Bettiah, Darbhanga and Deoghur Municipalities, the method of taxation adopted was that of a rate on holdings. In Assessment and taxation.

68 municipalities and in the remaining portions of the six municipalities mentioned above, the tax on persons was in force. Neither the tax on persons nor the rate on holdings is in force in Sambalpur, where an octroi is levied. As regards special rates latrine rate was levied in 96 municipalities, a water rate in 14, and a lighting rate in 4. The average incidence of taxation for the whole province was Re. 1-8-10, as compared with Re. 1-8-7 in 1908-09, but it varied from Rs. 2-4-9 in the Burdwan division to 13 annas 4 pies in Patna.

Revision of assessment.

218. The assessment was revised during the year in 65 municipalities, and the most noticeable instances of increased revenue were in the following towns:—

	Increase of revenue. Rs.
Muzaffarpur	15,089
Howrah	11,923
Ranchi*	11,228
Kurseong	6,005
Asansol	4,892
Titagarh	4,881
Santipur	4,101
Midnapore	3,840
Purulia	3,802
Berhampore	3,558

* Subject to revision on appeal.

In Muzaffarpur the revision was made by a Sub-Deputy Collector specially appointed by Government, and the results amply justified this course. In Santipur reductions made on appeal largely nullified the advantages of revision, and the Commissioner is enquiring into the special circumstances of the case, but assuming that a trustworthy assessor is appointed in the first instance, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council would impress upon municipalities the undesirability of lenient interference with his subsequent proposals. The Arrah Municipality again postponed its revision pending the completion of the drainage scheme, and the expediency of this course is open to considerable question. In any case it destroys the claim, which on a previous occasion was advanced for special assistance in respect of the drainage and flushing projects in recognition of the voluntary contributions made by the rate-payers to the former.

Collections.

219. The percentage of the total collections on the current demand (97·4) was practically the same as in the preceding year (97·5). There was a marked improvement in the Orissa and Presidency divisions (of 7·2 and 4 per cent., respectively), but in the Burdwan division the percentage declined by 5·3, and the progress made in the previous year was not maintained. Of individual municipalities those showing the best results were Jajpur (116·0), North Barrackpur (106·5), North Dum-Dum (106·4), Satkhira (106·1) and Naihati (105·2). The Garulia Municipality succeeded in collecting the entire amount of its demand, and showed neither remissions nor outstandings at the close of the year. The percentage of collection was lowest in Balasore, being 79·6 as against 68 in 1908-09, but this is apparently the sequel to the confusion into which the accounts had been allowed to fall. Only 20 municipalities were able to show collections of cent. per cent. and over, although this result is better than in the preceding year, when there were only 13 such cases. The collections in Howrah declined from 105·1 to 97·7, of which no explanation has been given. The poor percentage in Arrah (85·0) was caused by abstention from coercive measures pending the realisation of voluntary subscriptions promised towards the drainage scheme and in return for the acquiescence of the rate-payers in the demolition of platforms over the drains without compensation, but the excuse of the collection of subscriptions was alleged in 1908-09 also, and the efficient management of the ordinary municipal affairs should not be interfered with indefinitely on this account. Of the state of the collections in the Burdwan Municipality both the Commissioner and the District Magistrate speak in terms of condemnation, and out of the arrear and current demand of Rs. 1,37,025, only Rs. 99,682 was collected, while

Rs. 2,638 was remitted, leaving an outstanding balance of Rs. 34,705, equivalent to approximately one-third of the annual demand. Other municipalities whose collections leave much to be desired are Bankura, Kharar, Hooghly, Serampore, Buxar, Siwan, Motihari, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Chapra, Revelganj, Monghyr and Ranchi. The aggregate outstanding balance in all municipalities fell from Rs. 2,11,201 during the previous year to Rs. 1,86,675, representing 5·0 per cent. of the current demand, while the percentages of total remission on current demand was 2·9. The highest percentages were returned from Jajpur (14·8) and Monghyr (13·1), but it is preferable that the accounts should once and for all be cleared of old outstanding amounts, rather than that demands of which the collection is hopeless should be carried over from year to year.

Income and expenditure.

220. The total receipts of the municipalities in the province, including the opening balances, amounted to Rs. 80,82,914, as compared with Rs. 73,73,133 in 1908-09. The increase occurred chiefly under the following heads and to the extent noted. It will be seen that the growth under the head of rates and taxes was comparatively small:—

	Rs.
Opening balance	2,59,465
Municipal rates and taxes	66,883
Revenue derived from municipal property and powers ...	1,02,343
Sources other than taxation—	
Grants and contributions	1,41,885
Loans and advances	1,52,226

The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 62,16,193, as against Rs. 57,88,710 in the preceding year. The increase was chiefly under the head of drainage, capital outlay (Rs. 1,87,378), water-supply, capital outlay (Rs. 90,366), hospitals and dispensaries (Rs. 45,691) and advances (other than permanent advances) Rs. 1,57,729.

Closing balances.

221. The aggregate closing balances rose from Rs. 15,84,423 in 1908-09, to Rs. 18,66,721 at the close of 1909-10. The bulk of this increase represents the unspent balances of loans and contributions received by different municipalities from Government.

INCOME.

Total receipts.

222. The total income of the year, excluding the heads of "Opening balance" and "Extraordinary and debt," amounted to Rs. 53,77,648, showing an increase of Rs. 2,98,090 over the figures of the preceding year. Details of the main items of income are given below.

Tax on houses and lands.

223. The increase under this head amounts to Rs. 53,339, the bulk of which was contributed by the municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 22,491), Khagole (Rs. 10,423), Kurseong (Rs. 4,413), Asansol (Rs. 4,220), Titagarh (Rs. 3,957), Chapra (Rs. 3,371) and Berhampore (Rs. 2,891). Howrah shows a decrease under this head of nearly Rs. 20,000.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

224. The income under this head shows a decline of Rs. 1,109, which is in continuation of a fall of Rs. 3,526 in the preceding year. The only marked fluctuations were in Bhagalpur, where Rs. 5,000 was gained by the re-settlement of the Bhagalpur ferry with local farmers, in place of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, at a rent of Rs. 15,000, and in Muzaffarpur, where Rs. 4,995 was lost, mainly on the settlement of the Akhara ferry.

Water-rate.

225. As in 1908-09, this rate was levied in 14 municipalities, and the total receipts show a small increase of Rs. 6,728. The increase was marked in Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 8,762), Maniktala (Rs. 5,714), and Berhampore (Rs. 3,463). There was, on the other hand, a decrease of Rs. 15,977 in Howrah, and the administration of the water-works in this municipality has recently been severely criticised by the Sanitary Board. House connections have been given on a lavish scale, unprovided with meters, and complaints are now arising as to the adequacy of the supply to meet the demands upon it. The matter forms the subject of special enquiry.

Lighting rate.

226. This rate is levied only in the four municipalities of Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala and Darjeeling. The apparent falling off in the

receipts, as compared with those of the preceding year, by Rs. 40,343, is due to a change in the accounts. The Darjeeling Municipality has credited the receipts from this source, amounting to Rs. 43,896, to a new head "Electric Light Installation."

Conservancy including scavenging and latrine rates.

227. The income under this head showed a small increase of Rs. 24,091, mainly in the Presidency division (Rs. 9,964). The receipts from the sale of night-soil and the disposal of refuse and street sweepings rose from Rs. 2,754 to Rs. 7,089, and it is satisfactory to find that more attention is being given to this source of income, although there is still room for further expansion of the revenue under this head. The Cuttack Municipality appears to have derived some income in this manner, but the receipts seem to have been merged in the figures shown under "Conservancy."

Tax on persons according to their circumstances and property and the tax on professions and trades.

228. The receipts from these taxes rose from Rs. 3,55,309 and Rs. 62,470, respectively, to Rs. 3,67,163 and Rs. 67,747. Under the former head there was an increase in all divisions except Tirhut and Bhagalpur.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds and contributions from private individuals.

229. The net increase under this head, which amounted to Rs. 1,41,885, was mainly due to Government grants and private subscriptions for the water-supply and drainage schemes of Monghyr town (Rs. 1,10,815). Government made large grants during the year to Monghyr (Rs. 1,00,000 for a drainage scheme), Burdwan (Rs. 50,000 for drainage), Jessore (Rs. 44,000 for water-supply), Bhatpara (Rs. 30,000 for drainage), Arrah (Rs. 25,000 for drainage) and Titagarh (Rs. 20 000 for drainage). It is to be regretted that there were few striking instances of private liberality during the year, but Babu Laldhari Singh and his brothers, zamindars of Dharahra in Patna, made a donation of Rs. 20,000 to the Patna Municipality towards the Bankipore Hospital. The proprietress of the seven annas Tikari Raj also made a free gift of land, valued at Rs. 13,000, for the site of the pumping station for the Gaya water-works, and Chotey Nawab of Guzri and Khan Bahadur Shah Kamal of Lodikatra, respectively, made donations of Rs. 5,000 towards the Patna flushing scheme. The local mills subscribed Rs. 9,733 towards the Bhatpara drainage project.

EXPENDITURE.

Office and collection establishment.

230. The expenditure under this head declined from 8·0 per cent. on the total ordinary expenditure to 7·4. The highest percentage (39·7) was in the new municipality of Dhulian, where it is attributed to the difficulty of securing suitable men on low pay, but a reduction should be effected as soon as matters are in working order. The proportionate expenditure on this account was lowest in the Monghyr Municipality (1·7), but it was also satisfactorily small in the municipalities of Motihari (3·3), Berhampore (3·4), and Arrah (3·9).

Prevention of fire.

231. The expenditure under this head was mainly incurred in the municipalities of Howrah (Rs. 13,802), Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 17,688), Garden Reach (Rs. 2,916), Maniktala (Rs. 1,750) and Darjeeling (Rs. 1,154). In comparison with the expenditure of the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 4,720.

Lighting.

232. The expenditure under this head rose by Rs. 47,101, and now represents 6·4 per cent. of the total ordinary expenditure as compared with 6·0 per cent. in the preceding year.

Water-supply.

233. The expenditure under capital outlay increased by Rs. 90,366, while that under establishment repairs, etc., decreased by Rs. 6,175. The most conspicuous instance of additional expenditure was in the Bhagalpur division, where the total expenditure incurred rose from Rs. 1,54,629 to Rs. 2,40,694; of which the execution of the Monghyr water-works scheme was responsible for a capital outlay of Rs. 1,84,650. Sanction has been accorded to important projects for the improvement of the water-supply at Hooghly-Chinsura and Serampore at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,53,118 and Rs. 1,10,000 respectively. Other important schemes which have received the approval of Government were at Naihati (Rs. 19,191), Jessore (Rs. 1,35,000), and Kurseong

(Rs. 61,950). The total expenditure under this head in the Orissa division (Rs. 10,821) was regrettably small, but in Chota Nagpur it was even less, namely, (Rs. 5,925).

Drainage.

234. There was an increase of expenditure under "Capital outlay" and a decrease under "Maintenance." The municipalities which incurred the largest expenditure under the former head were: Howrah (Rs. 1,14,237), Titagarh (Rs. 82,058), Arrah (Rs. 77,123) and Puri (Rs. 31,308). A number of drainage schemes in the Burdwan and Presidency divisions were in various stages of preparation and progress, and the Monghyr drainage scheme was finally approved by Government in February 1910. The Kishanganj project, which was partly approved by Government, has been delayed for further enquiries concerning the outfall. A drainage scheme for Burdwan and partial schemes for Berhampore, Bhatpara and Bankura were also sanctioned. The cost of the Hooghly-Chinsura scheme, as a whole (Rs. 8,79,453) being prohibitive, it is proposed to undertake the work piecemeal. The preparation of the Jessore scheme was completed during the year, at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,10,368, but the Municipal Commissioners have declared their inability to provide funds, and the possibility of a less ambitious plan is being considered. Similarly at Ranaghat, the drainage scheme having been found to be beyond the resources of the municipality, a less costly project is under the consideration of the Sanitary Engineer. Drainage schemes for Bhagalpur and Sahebganj are under preparation, and the execution of the drainage scheme of the Arrah Municipality was commenced. It is satisfactory that some progress was made in this respect in the hitherto backward division of Chota Nagpur. Schemes have been sanctioned for Hazaribagh and Daltonganj, and in Ranchi estimates have been framed.

Conservancy, including road cleaning, road watering and latrines.

235. There were no noticeable fluctuations in the outlay under this head. The largest expenditure was incurred in Howrah, Darjeeling and Cossipore-Chitpur. In the Darjeeling Municipality Rs. 62,064 was expended in connection with the sewage scheme, which will, however, depend for its completion upon the experience gained of the working of septic tanks, of which one installation has been erected.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

236. There was an increase of expenditure under this head amounting to Rs. 45,691, which was shared by the Presidency, Tirhut, Bhagalpur and Orissa divisions. At Kurseong (Rs. 60,398) was spent on the construction of new hospital buildings, and in the Tirhut division in particular the Commissioner reports that praiseworthy progress was made.

Plague charges.

237. In comparison with the figures for 1908-09 the expenditure under this head fell by Rs. 12,440, mainly in the Patna division (Rs. 12,763), where the severity of the disease was appreciably less than in previous years.

Public Works.

238. The expenditure under this head shows a small decrease of Rs. 4,237, as compared with 1908-09. The expenditure on roads declined from Rs. 6,04,371 to Rs. 5,63,083, or by 6·8 per cent., while the expenditure on buildings rose from Rs. 55,989 to Rs. 91,973. The expenditure of the Howrah Municipality on roads was reduced by Rs. 47,840, which mainly accounts for the net decrease. The roads in Berhampore, Suri, Midnapore and Serampore are reported to have been neglected, while those in Hooghly-Chinsura are spoken of by the Divisional Commissioner as a discredit to the municipality. The Muzaffarpur Municipality appears to have effected economies mainly at the expense of its roads, while in Arrah the insufficient excuse is alleged for neglect that the energies of the municipal officers were absorbed by the drainage scheme which was in hand.

Public instruction.

239. The total expenditure rose by Rs. 6,584, as compared with the previous year. The Burdwan division showed an increase of Rs. 7,843, mainly on account of the employment of additional lecturers in the Midnapore College and to the repairs and equipment of its library. The ratio of expenditure on primary education to the total ordinary income of the municipalities varied from 13·3 in Roserah to ·006 in Howrah. The rule requiring municipalities to incur expenditure on primary education equal to 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income was withdrawn, although Divisional Commissioners were directed to see that provision approximating to that standard was made in the municipal budgets.

Loans.

240. Thirty-eight municipalities were in debt at the close of the year, and their total indebtedness, after deducting the balance of the sinking fund investments, amounted to Rs. 39,97,210 as compared with Rs. 38,89,909 in 1908-09. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 21,62,572), Darjeeling (Rs. 5,88,245), Bhagalpur (Rs. 3,17,797) and Patna (Rs. 2,31,317). Ten municipalities received loans during the year, namely, Howrah (Rs. 1,66,000 for drainage), Darjeeling (Rs. 30,000 for the reconstruction of certain barracks), Bhatpara (Rs. 20,000 for drainage), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 15,000 for roads), Titagarh (Rs. 10,000 for drainage), Bhagalpur (Rs. 10,000 for improvements to the water-works), Tollyganj (Rs. 7,000 for the extension of the filtered water-supply), Balasore (Rs. 5,000 for the repair of roads, bridges and culverts), Naihati (Rs. 5,000 for the extension of the filtered water-supply), and Giridih (Rs. 1,300 for an office building).

Liabilities.

241. On the 31st March 1910, 82 municipalities had outstanding liabilities on account of unpaid bills and unfinished works amounting to Rs. 1,35,567, which represents 4·2 per cent. of their current demand. The largest debtor (Rs. 18,617) was Berhampore, where, however, the liabilities were somewhat less than in the previous year (Rs. 25,029), but the liabilities exceeded the closing balance in 10 municipalities, and early action should be taken to re-establish equilibrium. The excess is most marked in Balasore, which had liabilities amounting to Rs. 7,200 against a closing balance of Rs. 1,568, but this is presumably due to the confusion into which the municipal management had fallen.

Audit of accounts and embezzlements.

242. Two cases of embezzlement occurred during the year in Baduria and Maniktala, respectively. The offenders in both cases were convicted, and convictions were also secured in respect of the defalcations in the Balasore Municipality to which reference was made in the review of the reports for 1908-09.

Inspection.

243. It is gratifying to notice that more attention is being given to the matter of the inspection of municipalities by Government officers.

General.

244. As regards the general aspects of municipal administration, the Commissioner of Burdwan, while admitting some improvement, is still dissatisfied with the general level of efficiency, and draws attention to the difficulties caused by the existence of party factions and rivalries. In the Presidency division a more decided rate of progress is chronicled, and it is claimed that in the advanced suburban and mill municipalities (noticeably in those of Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala), a high standard of efficiency is attained, and a genuine attempt is made to keep pace with the increasing demands of modern times. The Commissioner notes that the control now exercised by Government officers over the proceedings of municipalities is not as a rule regarded as irksome or as interfering unduly with the discretion of the Municipal Commissioners. The reports from the Patna division are generally favourable, particularly with reference to the important municipalities of Patna and Gaya. In Arrah the merits of the drainage scheme seem scarcely as yet to be appreciated, and the Commissioner promises special enquiry in the matter. The Commissioner of Tirhut is of opinion that much public spirit is noticeable in the work done by municipal bodies, and that abuses are remarkably uncommon. He lays stress on the value of the influence of District Magistrates as Chairmen of the different *sadar* municipalities. In the Bhagalpur division work seems to have progressed smoothly, while in Orissa the most satisfactory feature was the progress of the Balasore Municipality towards rehabilitation, under the guidance of the District Magistrate as Chairman. The water-supply project of the Puri Municipality is still delayed for lack of public support, and only a small proportion of the necessary funds is as yet forthcoming. In Chota Nagpur the working of the Purulia Municipality seems to leave most room for improvement.

The record of the year's work calls for little remark of a general character, and on the whole it may be regarded as satisfactory. Since the close of the year under review, Government had occasion to examine the question of the nature and degree of the supervision now exercised by its officers over the proceedings of municipalities, with reference to which various suggestions were made by the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation, more particularly on the subject of finance. The conclusion arrived at was that

there was no conclusive evidence that municipalities had been unduly hampered by the control of their budgets by District Magistrates and Commissioners, and the complaints alleged were for the most part directed, not against the existence of such control at all, but against its exercise in petty details. While not prepared to accept the recommendation that all municipalities should be allowed a free hand in respect of their budgets, the Lieutenant-Governor was prepared to allow an experiment in this direction in the municipalities of the Presidency and Burdwan divisions whose annual income was in excess of one lakh of rupees (namely, Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala and Burdwan), and in future the Divisional Commissioners, in these instances, will merely insure that the necessary closing balances are maintained, that due provision is made for the service of all loans, and that the provisions of the Act and any statutory rules and standing orders of Government are observed. With reference, however, to all municipalities Commissioners were enjoined to refrain, so far as possible, from interference with details, and to endeavour to guide municipalities rather by friendly advice than by explicit direction. The ultimate power of control should be resorted to only in cases of persistent neglect and default, and for the efficiency of their administration generally municipalities should be made to realise that they are themselves responsible.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[Report on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta for 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

General.

245. The principal feature of the past year's working was the very marked improvement in the finances of the Corporation, as shown by the fact that the deficit of Rs. 81,438 at the close of 1908-09 was converted into a surplus of Rs. 7,14,625 on the 31st March 1910. The raised reservoir at Tallah in connection with the scheme for the improvement of the water-supply is nearing completion, and it is expected that it will be possible to bring it into use before the hot weather of 1911. The drainage of the fringe area did not make very rapid progress, but will probably be completed well within the estimated period. Decisions on two important financial questions were given by Government during the year. The first was that no portion of any general supervising or engineering establishment employed by the Corporation, otherwise than those specifically employed in connection with works undertaken from loan funds, should be charged to capital. The second related to the practice of charging comparatively petty works to Loan Funds. Government has decided that no work can be rightly financed from loan funds unless the following conditions are satisfied:—

(1) that the work is either permanent or of a highly durable character,
(2) its nature is such that its execution cannot be carried out piecemeal and spread over a considerable number of years;
(3) the cost of it must be so large that it cannot without a serious disorganization of the finances of the Corporation be provided from the revenues of the year, or years, in which the work is actually executed.

Meetings.

246. The Corporation held 62 meetings, or 6 more than in the previous year. They appointed 25 Special Committees, including the Standing Committees which held 146 meetings. The four District Committees held on an average 18 meetings each and did useful work. The General Committee held 51 meetings, and appointed 27 Sub-Committees, who held 149 meetings as against 93 in the previous year.

Bye-laws, rules and regulations.

247. Amendments were made in the building regulations, the general tendency of which was to make them less rigid, while the new drainage bye-laws, the most important change in which was the provision that all connections with the municipal sewers must be made by a staff employed by the Corporation, became law shortly after the close of the year. The market regulations and bye-laws have also been sanctioned by Government.

Revenue funds. 248. The revenue receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 80,68,401 and the expenditure to Rs. 71,49,606, of which Rs. 73,412 represented non-recurring receipts and Rs. 2,34,690 non-recurring expenditure. The recurring receipts increased by Rs. 4,12,966, or 5·4 per cent., while the recurring payments decreased by Rs. 4,82,645, or 6·5 per cent. The principal item of decrease in expenditure was the cessation of the payment of Rs. 4,64,000 per annum on account of the Government loan. The actual receipts agreed fairly closely with the budget estimate, but the actual payments were about 8 lakhs less than were anticipated.

Loan funds. 249. The total income from loan funds was Rs. 61,77,272, of which Rs. 60 lakhs was borrowed during the year, and Rs. 1,77,272 represented miscellaneous receipts credited to loan funds. The new loan was raised in two instalments of Rs. 30 lakhs each, the average price for the first instalment being Rs. 96-9-8 and that of the second Rs. 95-8-8. The total expenditure was Rs. 50,73,455, which was considerably below the estimate, and the closing balance on the 31st March 1910 was Rs. 27,87,397, or over 11 lakhs more than the opening balance. The aggregate loan liability of the Corporation at the end of 1909-10 was Rs. 4,76,02,500.

Borrowing capacity. 250. During the year the question was raised whether the legal borrowing capacity of the Corporation as fixed under section 131 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, should be calculated upon the gross annual valuation of the city, including municipal properties and properties exempted from the rates, or upon the net rateable valuation. This was referred to the Advocate-General, who advised that only the rateable value of the city should be taken into account. On this basis the legal borrowing capacity of the Corporation on the 31st March 1910 was Rs. 1,41,15,000, against Rs. 1,66,54,000 on the 31st March 1909.

Valuation and assessment. 251. Wards Nos. 4, 5, 20 and 21 were revalued during the year; and as a result the rateable valuation of the city at the end of 1909-10 was Rs. 3,33,81,056, or Rs. 14,43,333 more than in the preceding year. The average annual increase is Rs. 11,43,106, which represents an annual addition of about Rs. 2,22,900 to the consolidated rate.

Surveyor's Department. 252. The revision survey of the town maps was the principal undertaking of the year. The actual survey was completed and the demarcation of boundaries of properties and the settlement of disputes are in progress. The work in the department being very heavy, a Deputy Surveyor on Rs. 300—400 was appointed; and it is proposed to revive the post of City Architect and to hand over the control of the Surveyor's Department to him, so as to leave the Assessor with only one department under his charge.

Collections. 253. The percentage of collections on the net demand rose from 99·68 in 1908-09 to 99·83 during the year under report, while the percentage on the gross demand declined from 96·39 to 96·215. This is entirely due to the large increase in the remissions granted to owners of unoccupied tenements; and these in their turn are mainly attributable to the unusual amount of land acquired by or through the agency of Government and to the removal of bustees. A marked improvement is shown in the collection of miscellaneous bills, the outstanding balance under this head having declined from Rs. 34,907 to Rs. 5,560, or about 1 per cent. of the demand.

Licenses. 254. The percentage of collections on current demand rose from 98·42 to 98·62 in the case of the tax on trades and professions and from 98·69 to 99·65 in the case of the tax on carriages and horses. The total collections amounted to Rs. 9,89,413, showing an increase of Rs. 44,889 as compared with Rs. 30,259 in the preceding year.

Bustees. 255. The alignment of areas where huts are likely to spring up has been completed, and the hut alignment lines have been demarcated on the ground. The area covered by the latter operations was 4·63 square miles. A new provision has been inserted in the building rules to the effect that buildings must be set back 20 feet from the centre of a bustee road. This will be of great value in controlling the development of roads in bustee areas, where masonry houses are springing up.

Water-supply. Filtered water. 256. The erection of the large steel structure forming the elevated reservoir which is estimated to cost Rs. 13,70,505 was commenced. The work was formally inaugurated by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor who, on

the 18th November 1909, placed a column in position and fixed the first bolt. Since then it has been pushed on with great rapidity and is now nearing completion. The laying of the large steel drain from Tallah to Wellington Square, through which the water from the tank will be distributed, has not made the progress that was anticipated, owing to delay on the part of the contractors and to difficulties in connection with the laying of the pipe through the Chitpur goods yard of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The measures for the prevention of waste of water were continued during the year, but the results achieved are still disappointing.

Unfiltered water.

257. The quantity of unfiltered water consumed again showed a slight decrease, due to the improvement of fittings and particularly to the repair and replacement of leaky street hydrants. The supply, however, has been ample for all requirements.

Suburban drainage.

258. The syphon under Tolly's Nala which was successfully laid in May 1909, was actually completed at the end of October 1909, but the approach sewers have only been recently connected. The syphon was formally opened on the 16th July 1910, and is working satisfactorily.

Drainage of the fringe area.

259. The drainage of the fringe area has not made the progress which was recorded last year. The delay was due partly to an enforced change in the site of the pumping station, and partly to difficulties in connection with the acquisition of the necessary land. Nearly one-third of the sewers have now been constructed. Their effect is already evident in the increased rapidity with which surface water is carried off from the area between Circular Road and College Street, which has always been liable to flooding, and in the fall in the mortality in the fringe area, to which reference is made lower down.

Improvement works.

260. The total expenditure on works of minor importance, such as the kerbing, channelling and paving of roads, sewering and laying of unfiltered water drains, was Rs. 6,52,294, or nearly 2 lakhs more than that of the previous year.

Roads.

261. In the year under report a great deal was done to improve the roads, and the expenditure on repairs exceeded that of the previous year by nearly a lakh of rupees. Several experiments in new materials for road making were tried or sanctioned during the year. The experiment made by the Chief Engineer of a modification of the Gladwell system in Lyons Range has been most successful and it is proposed to give an extended trial to it during the current year.

Conservancy.

262. The present annual expenditure under this head amounts to over 9 lakhs, and the service rendered is efficient. As the incineration of the refuse has been found more expensive than removing it by rail, the incinerator at Entally was closed for good, and the refuse will be taken out to the square mile as before.

Lighting.

263. Two hundred and nineteen new gas lamps against the sanctioned annual number of 100, were erected during the year, bringing the total number up to 9,814. A new contract was executed with the Oriental Gas Company under which gas only will be supplied by the Company, while the actual lighting will be done by the Corporation through the agency of a special department. It is estimated that the new contract will result in a saving to the Corporation of about Rs. 1½ lakhs per annum on the same number of lamps, while the efficiency of the lamps will be increased to about 2½ times the present minimum.

Health Department.

264. The number of births registered has increased from 17,043 in 1908 to 19,423 in the year under report. This increase is ascribed to the improvement in the method of registration and in particular to the work of the peripatetic sub-registrars. The death-rate was 28·7 per mille against 28·0 in the previous year. The health of the fringe area, however, has been much improved by the drainage operations, which by causing a general fall in the level of the subsoil water throughout the whole district, have brought down the death-rate from malaria to about half of what it was before. The mortality among infants was the lowest on record for 18 years, but it still reaches the high figure of 268 per thousand. Two midwives have been appointed lately by the Corporation, and it is intended to appoint two more. It is to be hoped that as they become better known, infant mortality, nearly half of which

occurs among children of less than eight days old, will tend to decrease. Cholera accounted for 2,022 deaths and small-pox 3,784, giving a death rate of 2·3 and 4·4 respectively per thousand. There was an outbreak of beri-beri or epidemic dropsy also from which 433 deaths were reported.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

265. The number of cases instituted rose from 15,301 to 18,465 and the convictions from 12,937 to 16,773 while the fines imposed amounted to Rs. 68,989 as compared with Rs. 51,394 in the preceding year. The number of cases in which the accused were acquitted or discharged was only 5 per cent. of the total.

Contributions.

266. The total contribution to hospitals and dispensaries made by the Corporation during the year was Rs. 45,929 in cash, while the remission of rates amounted to Rs. 11,746. The contributions include an annual grant of Rs. 35,000 to the Campbell Hospital and Rs. 20,000 to the Hospital Nurses' Institution. The total expenditure for educational purposes was Rs. 48,230. This included a capitation grant of Rs. 22,179, exemption of rates amounting to Rs. 21,651 and donations of Rs. 2,400, Rs. 1,600 and Rs. 400, respectively, to the Deaf and Dumb School, to free libraries and to the Loretto Orphanage.

Hackney Carriage Department.

267. The question of the improvement of the hackney carriage service was under the consideration of a Special Committee of the Corporation, who have recommended an alteration in the system of fares, and have proposed certain amendments to the Act designed to strengthen the control of the Registrar. Just after the close of the year a service of taximeter motor cabs was started by the Indian Motor Taxi Cab Company.

The Puri Lodging-house Act.

[Report on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act during the year 1909-10.]

Extent of application.

268. The Act was extended during the year to the village of Baksubigha, in the district of Gaya. Elsewhere, the Act was in force in the same towns and areas as in the preceding year. The by-laws in force in the town of Gaya were revised.

Number of licensed lodging-houses.

269. There were 2,657 lodging-houses licensed, with accommodation for 79,543 lodgers, the numbers in the previous year having been 2,492 and 107,569, respectively. The increase in the number of lodging-houses was shared by all places except Gaya and Chandbally, and was most marked in the towns of Puri and Jajpur, the figures being 1,518 and 133 against 1,118 and 53, respectively, in 1908-09. The increase in the case of Puri was due to the inclusion of temporary licenses granted under section 21A as amended by the Act III of 1908, and in Jajpur it is attributed chiefly to the large influx of pilgrims during the *Rath Jatra* festival when the then existing lodging-houses were not sufficient to accommodate them. The decrease, both in the number of lodging-houses and of lodgers in the town of Gaya, is apparent only, and is due to the fact that during the year 1908-09 licenses were twice issued—first, under the old system of reckoning the working year up to September, and, secondly, under the new system of reckoning the same according to the calendar year. The comparatively smaller number of pilgrims at the time of the *Dol* festival during the year under review is responsible for the decrease of 4,957 in the number of lodgers in the town of Puri.

Offences under the Act.

270. Four hundred and fifteen prosecutions were instituted under the Act during the year in which 364 persons were convicted, the total fines imposed amounting to Rs. 5,950.

Income.

271. The total income of the funds during the year (excluding the opening balance) was Rs. 83,965 against Rs. 1,02,978 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 19,013, the opening balance being Rs. 76,817 and the closing balance Rs. 67,495. The marked decrease at Gaya (15,505) and at Puri (6,283) is responsible for the result. At Gaya the decline was due to the fact, as explained in paragraph 3, that in the previous year licenses were twice issued, and the fees were accordingly abnormally large. The decrease at Puri (including the *chatties*) is attributed partly to the abnormal collection of arrears during 1908-09, and partly to the abolition of certain licensed lodging-houses which had been declared unfit by the Health Officers.

Expenditure.

272. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 86,162 in 1908-09 to Rs. 93,287 in 1909-10, showing an increase of Rs. 7,125. The increase was largest in

Puri, *chatties* on the Jagannath Road in the district of Cuttack, and Naihati (the figures being Rs. 50,160, Rs. 4,087 and Rs. 1,363, respectively, against Rs. 29,404, Rs. 1,606 and Rs. 209 in 1908-09). In the case of Puri the increase was chiefly due to the payment of Rs. 25,000 to the Puri Municipality towards the water-supply scheme for the town, and of Rs. 3,000 for improvement of the Pilgrim Hospital. The expenditure in Naihati increased on account of a special grant of Rs. 1,200 to the local municipality for the supply of filtered water to the pilgrims' quarters, and for the erection of a latrine for the pilgrims. In Gaya and Deoghur there was considerable decrease of expenditure, the figures being Rs. 30,205 and Rs. 2,197, respectively, as compared with Rs. 38,852 and Rs. 11,291 in 1908-09.

Health and general.

273. The health of the pilgrims was generally fair, and there was no serious outbreak of epidemic diseases. The number of deaths among the pilgrims fell from 404 in the preceding year to 259. In Puri alone the total number of deaths was 170, to which cholera and dysentery contributed more than three-fourths, the deaths from these causes being 76 and 55, respectively, as compared with 102 and 134 in 1908-09. Cholera was also prevalent in Gaya and Nabadwip, the number of deaths being 31 and 51 against 36 and 3 in the preceding year. Deoghur was completely free from disease. The sanitary arrangements in the lodging-houses are reported to have been satisfactory, and the water-supply good and sufficient. A well was sunk in the camping ground at Deoghur.

District Boards.

[Reports from Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Number of district and local boards.

274. The number of District and Local Boards in existence during the year remained unchanged, but the number of Union Committees increased from 51 to 52. Two new Union Committees were established at Nawapara and at Dalsing Serai in the districts of Khulna and Darbhanga, respectively, while one was abolished owing to the conversion of the Union at Dhulian in Murshidabad into a municipality.

Meetings of District Boards.

275. The District Boards in the province held 397 meetings in all during 1909-10, or 28 less than in the previous year, and of these 12 proved abortive for want of quorum, as against 18 in 1908-09. All the District Boards met at least once a month, with the exception of those of Jessore, Patna, Sambalpur and Palamau. The two boards last mentioned habitually fall short of what is considered to be a minimum requirement in this respect, if proper supervision is to be maintained, and the Commissioners of Orissa and Chota Nagpur are requested to see that attention is forthwith paid to the wishes of Government in the matter. Serious arrears were found by the Commissioner of the Presidency division in three districts in the audit of the accounts by the Finance Committees, which had failed to meet regularly with a sufficient quorum for the transaction of business. If audit work is to be of any value at all it is essential that it should be conducted regularly and punctually, and laxity in this respect may lead to most undesirable consequences.

Number of local boards and attendance of members.

276. Eight hundred and fifty-one meetings were held by Local Boards during the year, of which 68 failed for want of a quorum, while 36 Local Boards, as against 32 in the previous year, failed to meet at least once a month. As in the previous year, the Northern and Southern Zamindari Local Boards in Sambalpur again met twice only during the year, while the Dhanbaid Local Board held three meetings, as against two during 1908-09. Again in the Puri district, the Sadar and Khurda Boards each met five and six times only, while in Murshidabad the Sadar and Jangipur Boards were only convened in four and five instances respectively. In Nadia, all the Local Boards showed irregularity in this respect, and taking the divisions as a whole, those of Patna, Tirhut and Bhagalpur show much more consistent activity among the Local Boards than the rest of the province.

Elections.

277. General elections were held only in the districts of Midnapore, Murshidabad and Jessore, and in the majority of cases they proved a failure. The reasons alleged are that the work of the Local Boards is not sufficiently important or interesting to attract candidates, while in Jessore it is stated

that there is probably also a dearth of suitable persons possessing the necessary residential qualifications.

Union Committees.

278. The aggregate income, excluding the opening balance, of the 52 Union Committees amounted to Rs. 20,762 against Rs. 17,180 in 1908-09, while the expenditure rose from Rs. 16,524 to Rs. 18,683. Of the sum of Rs. 20,762, Rs. 18,163 was made up of contributions from the District Boards, and it is obvious that this at present constitutes practically the sole source of income of these Committees. It is an essential condition of the success of these bodies that they shall be provided with funds sufficient to permit of their undertaking work of appreciable importance to the locality, which may justify the supervision which they are prepared to give, and until this has been done it can scarcely be said that the experiment has had a fair trial.

Financial results.

279. The year opened with a gross credit balance of Rs. 21,86,270, and the total receipts of District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 74,93,721. The total amount available for expenditure was thus Rs. 96,79,991, of which Rs. 72,80,290 was spent during the year, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 23,99,701. The income and expenditure of District Boards under the main heads of account during the past two years are compared below :—

INCOME.

	1908-09.	1909-10.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Percentage of total income.
Land Revenue	...	376	·005
Provincial Rates	34,88,414	36,09,792	48·1
Interest	36,645	32,196	·4
Law and Justice	...	16,319	·2
Police (Pounds)	3,30,309	3,35,491	4·5
Education	57,900	5,62,967	7·5
Medical	65,912	1,20,448	1·6
Scientific and other Minor Departments	18,302	29,654	·4
Miscellaneous	1,05,874	1,55,598	2·1
Railways	.....	45,254	·6
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation	7,371	4,916	·06
Civil Works (including ferries) ...	11,98,685	13,34,041	17·8
Contributions	9,95,880	...	...
Loans	4,54,000	2,75,000	3·6
Deposits and Advances ...	11,16,728	9,71,669	12·98
Total ...	78,76,020	74,93,721	

EXPENDITURE.

	1908-09.	1909-10.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure.
Administration	2,02,807	2,13,535	2·9
Police	26,799	27,589	·3
Education	12,84,770	11,90,503	16·3
Medical	4,29,397	4,17,846	5·7
Scientific and other Minor Departments	66,785	81,336	1·1
Superannuation allowances and pension	52,117	51,518	·7
Stationery and Printing ...	41,216	37,803	·5
Miscellaneous	53,697	26,850	·3
Famine Relief	96,543	87,330	1·2
Minor Works and Navigation ...	3,50,617	2,73,477	3·7
Civil Works—Public Works ...	43,83,396	41,56,410	57·1
Contributions	35,456	10,399	·14
Interest on Debt	12,408	11,686	·16
Repayment of Loans	39,059	45,096	·6
Deposits and Advances ...	14,70,350	6,48,912	8·9
Total ...	85,45,417	72,80,290	

In the figures of income for 1909-10 "Contributions" have been adjusted under the appropriate heads to which the sums so paid were devoted, *e.g.*, Education, Medical, and Civil Works, and this accounts for the noticeable fluctuations in these items. Taking the year under report it will be seen that nearly half the total income of District Boards was derived from Provincial Rates, the next most profitable source of revenue being Civil Works (including ferries) which accounted for 17·8 per cent. On the expenditure side Civil Works—Public Works was responsible for 57·1 per cent. of the total outlay, followed by Education (16·3 per cent.) and Medical (5·7 per cent.) The head "Deposits and Advances" is scarcely a true item either of revenue or expenditure.

INCOME.

Provincial rates.

280. The income realized under this head showed an increase in all divisions except Patna and Tirhut, amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 1,21,378, the greater part of which (Rs. 1,00,198) occurred in Chota Nagpur. The improvement is generally attributed to the realization of arrear demands, and to the revision, in some instances, of the assessments on coal mines, but the failure of certain estates under the Court of Wards to pay the demand on this account in the districts of Gaya and Shahabad should not have been allowed, and particular attention is drawn to the persistent defaults in the Bankura district, which the Collector should forthwith take steps to remedy.

Pounds.

281. The total number of pounds maintained by the District boards increased from 2,811 to 2,857, while the income derived from them rose in 16 districts and fell in the remainder, resulting in a net increase of Rs. 5,182. The system of triennial settlements noticed in last year's report appears to be most extensively followed in the Tirhut division, and apparently with satisfactory results. The fact that 11 pounds remained unsettled in the Muzaffarpur district for want of lessees raises the presumption that the total number of pounds in the district is excessive.

Ferries.

282. The receipts from ferries rose in 13 districts and fell in 15, resulting in a net decrease of Rs. 925. The District Board of Saran returned the largest decrease (Rs. 5,218), which, however, was more apparent than real, being due to the fact that the receipts of the previous year were swollen by the inclusion of the deposits advanced for 1909-10. In Muzaffarpur, the decline of Rs. 4,721 was due to the non-realization of the full demand from certain ferries, which should have been preventable. In Darbhanga, remissions of rent to ferry farmers were granted in 1908-09 on account of the scarcity then prevailing, and the absence of such a cause during the year under report resulted in an increase of Rs. 8,646.

Loans.

283. The District Board of the 24-Parganas received, during the year, the last instalment of the loan on account of the Magrahat Drainage Scheme. No other loans were made to District Boards.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

284. The grant of travelling allowance to members for attending Local Board meetings was chiefly responsible for the increase of Rs. 10,723 under this head, which was shared by all divisions except Patna.

Education.

285. In comparison with an aggregate increase under this head of Rs. 1,14,380 during the preceding year, the total expenditure on education showed a decline of Rs. 94,267 in 1909-10, which was common to all divisions. Among the reasons alleged are the non-payment of grant-in-aid bills, the discontinuance of grants, inability to spend the full budget provision, and smaller expenditure on primary school buildings, etc. Moreover, the expenditure in the previous year was abnormally swollen by the refund of the unspent balance of the Government grant for primary school buildings. The number of upper primary schools aided by District Boards increased from 2,368 to 2,525, and that of aided lower primary schools from 22,774 to 22,838, while aided primary schools, as a whole, furnished instruction to 693,022 boys and 86,331 girls as compared with 677,302 boys and 82,335 girls in 1908-09. In Hooghly and Jessore the expenditure under

"Education" was slightly less than the amount assigned for the purpose from provincial revenues.

Special schools. 286. During the year under report technical or industrial schools were maintained or aided by the District Boards of Burdwan, Midnapore, Khulna Saran, Muzaffarpur, Balasore, Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Manbhum, while various District Boards gave stipends tenable at different technical schools. The management of the Bhagalpur Technical School was transferred to the Education Department with effect from the 1st March 1910. The weaving industry was encouraged by District Boards in various ways, and the District Boards of Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, the 24-Parganas and Balasore granted scholarships to pupils undergoing training at the Serampore Weaving School; the District Boards of Patna and Manbhum gave grants-in-aid to weaving schools within their respective jurisdictions. The District Board of Darbhanga maintained a staff of peripatetic weaving instructors, but it is said that the people take no appreciable interest in the experiment, and its discontinuance has been suggested. In Birbhum, Bankura and Hooghly progress is said to have been made in the introduction of fly-shuttle looms. The Seri-Agricultural College at Sabong in the Midnapore district ceased to exist.

Shows and exhibitions. 287. Agricultural exhibitions or shows were held in the districts of Hooghly, Bankura, Birbhum, the 24-Parganas, Jessore, Khulna, Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Ranchi and Manbhum.

Medical. 288. The expenditure under this head declined in the Burdwan, Presidency, Bhagalpur and Orissa divisions, which more than counterbalanced the increase elsewhere, resulting in a net decrease of Rs. 11,551. The Orissa division was responsible for the largest decrease (Rs. 17,181), but partly, at least, this was due to the absence of serious epidemics which rendered certain expenditure unnecessary. The number of dispensaries maintained by the District Boards rose from 158 to 168, but the number aided by them fell from 142 to 138. Four new dispensaries were opened by the Shahabad District Board, two each by the Jessore District Board and the Sambalpur District Council, and one by each of the District Boards of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Bhagalpur and Purnea; on the other hand, one dispensary was closed in Darbhanga and one in Balasore. As in the previous year, five temporary dispensaries (one being a floating one on the river Bhagirathi) were maintained by the District Board of Burdwan, and one (newly) in Birbhum for the distribution of medicines during the fever season, while in Saran and Darbhanga peripatetic medical officers were sent out for the same purpose. The District Boards of Murshidabad and Hazaribagh maintained no dispensaries, although they continued to subsidize various institutions maintained by municipalities. Medical officers were deputed to attend at *hâts* in the Hooghly, Midnapore, Bhagalpur and Purnea districts, and the practice is deserving of more extended trial. The charges on account of measures for the prevention of plague fell from Rs. 32,965 to Rs. 28,643, the bulk of the expenditure being incurred in the divisions of Patna (Rs. 10,226), Tirhut (Rs. 12,988) and Bhagalpur (Rs. 5,079).

Sanitation. 289. The annual expenditure increased by Rs. 1,844, which was shared by the Patna, Tirhut and Orissa divisions. The largest expenditure was returned by the Gaya District Board (Rs. 6,519), Patna following with an outlay of Rs. 6,065, but looked at from the point of view of the work to be done, the provincial expenditure is obviously insignificant. Various District Boards have now employed sanitary inspectors, and noticeably in Midnapore and Gaya, it is reported that good work was done by them, but there still appears to be a great want of system in the different attempts which are being made to tackle the problem of sanitation. It is to be hoped that through the agency of Union Committees it may be found possible to achieve something more definite, at least in the larger bazars, and as mentioned last year, it is upon these that effort should in the first place be concentrated.

Veterinary charges. 290. The total outlay under this head is increasing steadily, that during the previous year having been Rs. 48,016 only. The increase was common to all divisions, and the general tenor of the reports indicates that progress is being made and that the services of the veterinary assistants are becoming more and more appreciated. The best results seem to have been achieved in the Tirhut division.

Famine Relief.

291. Relief operations were conducted by the Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur District Boards which incurred expenditure of Rs. 20,418 and Rs. 22,072, respectively. In Bhagalpur, the greater part (Rs. 18,380) was spent on charitable relief, but work to the extent of Rs. 1,05,570 (of which Rs. 45,511 was spent during the year under report) was done on the Tiljuga embankment from funds supplied by the Banaili and Srinagar estates. A refund of Rs. 13,405 was made by Government towards the expenditure incurred on gratuitous relief, and Rs. 6,441 was paid as half the cost of the relief works. The District Boards of Nadia and Darbhanga showed an outlay of Rs. 12,929 and Rs. 29,000, respectively, under this head, but this was due to the adjustment of expenditure incurred in the previous year.

Civil Works.

292. In comparison with the preceding year the expenditure under "Communications—Original works" was less by Rs. 3,44,519, while that under "Communications—Repairs" increased by Rs. 1,41,572. The total outlay of the year showed a decline of Rs. 2,26,986, which is in continuation of a decrease of Rs. 1,85,880 in 1908-09, as compared with 1907-08. There was no appreciable change in the total mileage of roads under the charge of District Boards. It is noticeable that in the Sewan subdivision of the Saran district, road repairs were reported to have been satisfactorily executed in some cases through the agency of the village panchayats; but, generally speaking, the work of the year presented no unusual features.

Water-supply and water-works.

293. As compared with 1908-09, the expenditure under "Original works" rose by Rs. 2,843, while that under "Repairs" fell by Rs. 9,490, resulting in a decline of Rs. 6,647 in the total expenditure under this sub-head. In nine districts only out of twenty-nine, viz., in Birbhum, Nadia, Khulna, Patna, Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea, did the expenditure on account of water-supply exceed Rs. 5,000, the standard which is regarded by Government as a minimum, although the attention of all District Boards has repeatedly been drawn to the necessity of improving the sources of water-supply in rural areas. Unless local bodies will of their own initiative pay greater attention to this important item of local administration, the Local Government will be left with no alternative but to earmark for this purpose a portion of the grants which are made in aid of the resources of District Boards. Scarcely less important than the construction of new wells and tanks is the maintenance of the existing sources in an efficient condition, and the repair and cleansing of wells is a matter in which much remains to be done. During the year under review expenditure on the repair of wells was reported from twelve districts only, the best results being attained in Muzaffarpur, where 451 wells were repaired, cleaned and disinfected at an outlay of Rs. 1,594. The cost of cleaning a well is not excessive, while, if done systematically, excellent results as regards the public health may be anticipated from such a measure. As in the previous year, the Muzaffarpur District Board showed commendable activity in the matter of well-boring, and operations were carried out in respect of 327 wells at a cost of Rs. 26,269. The Darbhanga District Board has also purchased boring tools, while in Monghyr Rs. 1,914 was spent in this direction. In Champaran, boring appears to have been unsuccessful, but the experiment was conducted upon a very small scale.

Drainage.

294. The expenditure under this sub-head was nearly double that of the previous year, but it is still insignificant. Such as it was, it was incurred by the District Boards of the 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Khulna and Bhagalpur. The only important drainage work in progress, namely, the Magrahat drainage scheme, is shown under Minor Works and Navigation. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 20,98,898, and it is progressing towards completion with most satisfactory results. It is hoped that the scheme for the improvement of the Nawai and Sunthi rivers in the 24-Parganas will take final shape during the current year, but projects for the drainage of the Choraikole bheel in Nadia, and for the improvement of the river Bhairab and the drainage of the Arool bheel in Jessore still hang fire in a regrettable manner.

Arboriculture

295. The figures under this sub-head showed an advance of Rs. 8,723 over the expenditure of the previous year, and all District Boards, except Birbhum, incurred expenditure on this account. The outlay was largest in

Patna (Rs. 7,073), Gaya following with an outlay of Rs. 6,353. The Patna District Board inaugurated the celebration of an Arbor day on the 9th August 1909, by planting trees round the Bankipore maidan and by the sides of roads, while it also introduced a system of tending road-side trees through the agency of the zamindars concerned, the District Board paying the wages of the *malis*. This board derived an income from the sale of fruit, etc., of Rs. 1,691. In Saran, an attempt was made to enlist the assistance of the chaukidari panchayats in the subject of tree-planting by the offer of rewards, and the experiment is deserving of all success. Almost all the District Boards deputed sub-overseers to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Sibpur for training in arboriculture.

Railways and Tramways.

296. There was a fair amount of activity shown in the development of light railways, and the progress made with different projects is mentioned briefly below. In the 24-Parganas the extension of the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway from Baliaghatta station to Pattipukur was completed and opened in February 1910. The District Board of Nadia entered into an agreement with a private firm for the construction of a light railway from Krishnagar to Jellinghee, but the sanction of Government to this agreement has not yet been given. A Renard train service was tried between Kotchandpur in Jessore and Shibnibash in Nadia for a few days, but it was not successful and was discontinued. In Patna the Bihar-Silao extension of the Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway was opened for traffic in July 1909, while in Gaya the question of the construction of a light railway from Gaya *viâ* Bodh Gaya to Sherghati is still under consideration. In Shahabad a start was made with the construction of the Arrah-Sassaram Light Railway in December 1909, and fair progress has since been made. The Dehri-Rhotas Light Railway, which is being constructed by Messrs. Octavius Steel and Company, is reported to have advanced satisfactorily. The Chapra-Musrakh extension of the Bengal and North-Western Railway was opened towards the close of the year, and land acquisition projects were submitted to Government for the proposed Thawe-Tewaripatti extension. Final orders have not yet been passed as regards the proposed direct line of railway from Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga with a branch from Tewara to Sitamarhi, but the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company proposes to construct the Samastipur-Roserah line at an early date and land is being acquired for the purpose. A report has been drawn up by the District Engineer of Monghyr on the proposed light railway from Monghyr to Kharagpur, and will shortly be placed before the Board. The Boards' share of the surplus profits in 1909 from the four guaranteed lines in this province was as follows, the figures in each case showing a satisfactory increase over those of the previous year :—

	Rs.
Howrah (Howrah-Amta line)	40,936
Hooghly (Howrah-Sheakhala line)	3,595
24-Parganas (Barasat-Basirhat line)	6,479
Patna (Bakhtiarpur-Bihar line)	5,199

Contributions.

297. The figures under this head fell from Rs. 35,456 to Rs. 10,399, practically the whole (Rs. 9,892) of which was incurred by the Muzaffarpur District Board, representing the contribution paid to the local municipality on account of the surplus tolls of the Akhara Ghât pontoon bridge and its connected ferries.

Debt.

298. The expenditure incurred under this head amounted to Rs. 6,94,008 only, in comparison with Rs. 15,09,409 in the preceding year, the result being mainly attributable to the decrease of Rs. 8,21,438 under "Deposits and advances." The major portion of the decrease was returned by the Nadia (Rs. 2,89,232) and Darbhanga (Rs. 2,80,934) District Boards, the adjustment of the advances on account of famine having been made during 1908-09.

Closing balance.

299. The aggregate closing balances (including deposits) increased by Rs. 2,17,853, which was shared by the Burdwan, Tirhut and Orissa divisions. The District Board of Nadia showed a closing balance of Rs. 39 only, the remainder of the balance consisting of unrepaid deposits, and as this can

scarcely be regarded as a sufficient working balance the Commissioner is requested to enquire into the financial position of the Board. The deficit balance (—Rs. 897) in Palamau was due to the fact that the outstanding deposits were in excess of the total balance, and here also enquiry is necessary. The District Boards of Burdwan, Midnapore, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Saran, Muzaffarpur and Manbhum all closed the year with actual balances of more than a lakh of rupees, a sum which appears to be unnecessarily high and to denote bad financial control.

300. With reference to the work of the year generally, the Commissioner of the Burdwan division does not consider that any special advance can be chronicled, and instances the failure to incur sufficient expenditure upon sanitation and water-supply, though he recognises the difficulties of lack of funds and opposition from private interests under which the Boards labour. In the Presidency division the Commissioner is of opinion that, on the whole, the Boards have administered the funds placed at their disposal with prudence and promptness. The Commissioner of Patna notices the remarks of the District Magistrate of Shahabad that the resources of the Board have been spent upon the town of Arrah and its neighbourhood to an extent prejudicial to the claims of the outlying portions of the district, but, as Mr. Maude observes, the question is one of degree rather than principle, and it is impossible to dissociate the interests of the district entirely from those of the head-quarter town. The tendency, however, is not new, and it is requisite that it should be guarded against. In Tirhut the Boards are reported to exercise considerable influence and to take a commendable interest in their work, while the opinions expressed from the Orissa and Chota Nagpur divisions are generally favourable. It is in respect of the improvement of the water-supply that the lines of policy followed by District Boards most require modification, and it is to be hoped that the causes of complaint on this score, which have not been infrequent in the past, may speedily disappear. General remarks.

Volunteering.

301. The number of enrolled volunteers and reservists during the year 1909-10 was 7,000. Sanction was given to the addition of a new company to the 2nd (Presidency) Battalion and of two companies to the 1st Battalion of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, and to the formation of a reserve troop to be attached to the Calcutta Light Horse, of a reserve company in the 1st Battalion of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps and of an additional Naval Division of the Calcutta Port Defence Volunteers. Total strength.

Marine.

[The information contained in this Chapter has been obtained from reports which are annually submitted to this Government. The reports consulted are as follows:—

(*i*) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, 1909-10.
(*ii*) Annual Report on the working of the Shipping Offices at Calcutta and at the ports of Orissa, 1909-10.
(*iii*) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta, 1909.
(*iv*) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission, 1909-10.
(*v*) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments, 1909-10.
(*vi*) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, 1909-10.
(*vii*) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge, 1909-10.
(*viii*) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-boiler Commission, 1909-10.
(*ix*) Administration Report of the Orissa Ports, 1909-10.
(*x*) Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

302. There were fifty-eight pilots and thirteen leadsmen apprentices in the pilot service at the close of the year, against fifty-four and fifteen respectively at the end of 1908-09. There were no casualties or retirements in the service during the year. Two leadsmen apprentices were recruited, one locally and the other from England. Pilot Service.

303. The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 13,67,388, against Rs. 13,88,898 in 1908-09. Receipts from pilotage.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

304. There was a slight falling off in the number of vessels visiting the port during the year: 1,610 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,148,549 arrived, while 1,615 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,151,667 left. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,642 with a tonnage of 6,241,062 and 1,636 with a tonnage of 6,228,336. The average tonnage of vessels visiting the port was 3,814, against 3,803 in 1908-09.

Casualties to vessels.

305. There was one collision against five, and fifteen cases of vessels grounding against eighteen in the previous year. Of the latter one was due to the negligence of the pilot and two merely to unskilfulness. The collision was not caused by any fault of the pilot.

Fifty-six preliminary enquiries were held by the Port Officer. Two of these cases were referred to departmental courts, and six to special courts of enquiry. Under the provisions of section 10 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1883, the High Court, in the exercise of its admiralty jurisdiction, was directed to investigate a charge of misconduct brought against Mr. Ralph Begg, Chief Engineer, S.S. *Mutlah*. Mr. Begg was found to blame, and his certificate as first-class engineer was suspended for three weeks. This is the first case of its kind. No court under Act XII of 1859 was held during the year.

Examinations.

306. Ninety-six candidates appeared at the examination for the grant of colonial and home-trade certificates of competency, of whom fifty-three passed. Four hundred and forty-seven candidates went up for the examinations for the grant of certificates of competency as master, serang, engineer and engine-driver under the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884, of whom one hundred and seventy-four passed. One candidate was granted a license for a steam-tug pilot.

Appointment of a Deputy Port Officer and Deputy Shipping Master.

307. Commander St. L. S. Warden, R.I.M., was in charge of the department throughout the year. Owing to the increasing trade of the port and consequent increase of work, an appointment of Deputy Port Officer and Senior Deputy Shipping Master was sanctioned with the approval of the Government of India, and Commander C. B. Henley, R.I.M., was appointed to the post on the 1st May 1909.

Revision of salaries of Leadsmen Apprentices.

308. On the recommendation of this Government, a revised scale of salaries was sanctioned by the Government of India for the leadsmen apprentices, with effect from the 1st June 1909. The salaries of the junior, and second mate and first mate leadsmen apprentices, when on the running list, were fixed at Rs. 107, Rs. 135 and Rs. 160 per month, respectively, *plus* 50 per cent. of the lead-money but without exchange compensation allowance. When employed as chief and second officers of pilot vessels they will draw Rs. 160 and 135 a month respectively, *plus* a monthly mess allowance of Rs. 40. Previous to this, the leadsmen apprentices, when on the running list, drew a uniform salary of Rs. 100 per month.

Redistribution of tonnage allotted to pilots.

309. Owing to a decrease in the earnings of the lower grades of the pilot service, a revised scale of tonnage to be allotted to pilots was sanctioned, as an experimental measure with effect from 1st April 1909, viz.:—

Branch Pilots ...	... From above	3,550 tons
Senior Master Pilots	... From	1,950 to 3,550 „
Junior Master Pilots	... From	1,950 to 3,000 „
Mate Pilots ...	... Up to	1,950 „

The confirmation of this arrangement has been postponed till the Government has watched the results of its working more fully.

THE SHIPPING OFFICE AT CALCUTTA.

Finance.

310. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office during the year 1909-10 amounted to Rs. 88,759, against Rs. 85,005 in the previous year. This shows an increase of Rs. 3,754, which is attributable to larger receipts on account of shipping and overtime fees, sale of discharge certificates and recoveries from masters of vessels on account of fines and forfeitures. The expenditure was Rs. 51,932 as compared with Rs. 45,280 in the previous year. This increase is chiefly due to the creation of the post of Senior Deputy Shipping Master and Deputy Port Officer.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

311. The statement below shows the number of seamen shipped and discharged under European and Indian articles at the shipping offices, Calcutta.

and Kidderpore, during the year 1909-10, as compared with those shipped and discharged during the year 1908-09 :—

	1908-09.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
Shipped.				
European articles ...	696	653	...	43
Indian „ ...	39,344	40,658	1,314	...
Discharged.				
European articles ...	804	636	...	168
Indian „ ...	34,941	35,919	978	...

The decrease of shipments and discharges under European articles was due to a smaller demand for seamen on these articles, which may be mainly attributed to a reduction in the number of Chinese seamen discharged during the year. The shipments and discharges under Indian articles increased, owing to a larger number of vessels engaging and discharging native seamen. The number of seamen shipped and discharged during the year by Foreign Consuls was, 84 and 90 respectively.

312. During the year 1909-10, 84 seamen were repatriated under the Distressed Seamen's Regulations, against 85 in the previous year. Repatriation of seamen.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

313. The Health Officer of the port inspected 964 inward-bound and 723 outward-bound vessels during 1909, against 1,003 and 1,714 in 1908. The decrease is due to the abolition of the inspection of vessels proceeding to and coming from the Indian ports, under the orders of the Government of India. The following table shows the number of crew and passengers of vessels, who were passed after inspection or rejected during the year:— Inspection of vessels.

		Passed.	Rejected.
Outward-bound vessels	Crew ...	52,456	82
	Passengers ...	18,433	168
Inward-bound vessels	Crew ...	68,692	...
	Passengers ...	...	...

314. European seamen enjoyed better health during the year than in 1908. 512 were treated in hospitals for different diseases, against 741 in the previous year. The number of venereal cases treated in hospitals was 54 against 146 in 1908. The death-rate also decreased, being 7·96 per mille, against 14·13 in 1908. The health of the Indian floating population of the port also compares favourably with the preceding year, the number of deaths being 193 or 6·48 per mille, against 253 or 8·49 per mille in 1908. The number of deaths at sea amongst European seamen was 5, and among Indians 48, as against 16 and 40 respectively in 1908. Health of the port.

315. A case of plague from the *Lady Fraser*, and four cases of small-pox from four different steamers in the port, and six cases of suspected cholera from the S. S. *Ameer* and one from another steamer, were removed to hospital. In all cases the vessels were thoroughly disinfected. The Sanitary Inspector of the port was provided with a motor launch to enable him to perform his duties with more expedition. Disinfection of vessels.

AGENT FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

316. The adminstrative control of the office of the Agent for Government Consignments was transferred to this Government from the Government of India, Army Department, with effect from the 1st April 1909. Transfer of control.

317. The total recoveries of the agency during the year amounted to Rs. 1,95,105, while the expenditure was Rs. 1,70,108. Finance.

318. The tonnage dealt with by the agency was:— Tonnage handled.

Packages	300,878 (including 21,840 fire-bricks).
Tons	23,381

The value of freight bills passed was Rs. 2,79,908. A revised scale of rates for the handling of stores was drawn up, which is awaiting the approval of the Government of India.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Revenue receipts and expenditure.

319. The income amounted to Rs. 1,18,36,518 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,19,97,364, against Rs. 1,20,16,630 and Rs. 1,19,78,134 in the preceding year. Though there was a deficit of Rs. 1,60,846, but for three items of expenditure of a special nature, the year would have closed with a surplus. They were as follows:—

	Rs.
(*i*) The reconstruction of the northern jetty at the dock entrance	1,02,455
(*ii*) The removal of the wreck of S. S. *Onipenta*	67,688
(*iii*) The removal of the wreck of S. S. *Aral*	777
Total ...	1,70,920

The revenue reserve fund stood at Rs. 30,36,628 at the close of the year.

Capital outlay.

320. The expenditure on capital works was Rs. 1,24,28,320. The more important works in progress or completed during the year were:—The reclamation of land at Ramkristopur and Shalimar; improvements in the lighting of the jetties; a coal depôt for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at Shalimar; a new landing stage at Outram Ghât for ocean-going steamers; the provision of four new ferry steamers; the extension of siding accommodation, dock No. 2; the acquisition of land for the new dock scheme; the provision of buildings for the army remount depôt at Mominpur; a new graving dock and slipway; the extension of dock No. 2; and the remodelling of the Budge Budge petroleum depôt.

Capital account.

321. The capital debt of the Trust on the 31st March 1910, was Rs. 8,34,90,302. The value of properties held by the Commissioners of the Port was Rs. 10,35,17,339. The amounts at the credit of the sinking fund, depreciation fund and fire insurance fund, were Rs. 89,80,863, Rs. 6,02,956 and Rs. 7,49,559 respectively. A sterling loan of £700,000 was floated in England and a loan of Rs. 45,00,000 raised locally, to enable the Commissioners to provide increased accommodation and better facilities to meet the requirements of the growing trade of the port.

Financial results of 1909-10 as compared with 1908-1909.

322. The following table shows the details of the receipts and charges of the Revenue Account for the year 1909-10, as compared with similar figures for the previous year:—

	1909-10.				1908-09.				Difference between 1909-10 and 1908-09.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net Revenue.	Net Deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net Revenue.	Net Deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	17,072	8,38,173	...	8,21,101	4,005	8,16,106	...	8,12,101	...	9,000
II.—Jetties	13,78,667	7,35,111	6,43,556	...	13,56,621	7,90,629	5,65,992	...	77,564	...
III.—Tea Warehouse	1,55,567	1,09,381	46,186	...	1,69,807	97,976	71,831	...	...	25,645
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	2,57,989	67,350	1,90,589	...	2,19,145	51,437	1,67,708	...	22,881	...
V.—Inland Vessels Wharves	4,41,049	1,90,490	2,50,559	...	4,35,658	2,07,707	2,27,951	...	22,608	...
VI.—Rentable Lands and Buildings.	15,19,560	1,70,139	13,49,421	...	12,97,398	1,65,097	11,32,301	...	2,17,120	...
VII.—Port	5,12,171	5,24,125	...	11,954	5,66,814	5,96,844	...	30,230	18,276	...
VIII.—Port Approaches	7,04,402	5,86,267	1,18,135	...	6,99,246	6,15,147	84,099	...	34,036	...
IX.—Railway	12,94,011	10,07,648	2,86,363	...	14,27,440	9,95,960	4,31,480	...	...	1,45,117
X.—Wet Docks	27,78,913	26,98,169	80,824	...	29,53,799	29,02,010	51,789	...	29,035	...
XI.—Dry Docks	2,65,791	68,256	1,97,535	...	3,07,657	70,129	2,37,528	...	...	39,993
XII.—Ferry Service	1,43,129	1,65,620	...	22,491	1,27,816	1,89,128	...	61,312	38,821	...
XIII.—River Dues	21,41,833	...	21,41,833	...	22,15,519	...	22,15,519	...	...	73,686
Sale of unserviceable materials ...	39,760	...	39,760	...	26,812	...	26,812	...	12,948	...
Contribution from Howrah Bridge	20,847	...	20,847	...	19,798	...	19,798	...	1,049	...
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	1,21,935	...	1,21,935	...	1,05,896	...	1,05,896	...	16,039	...
Interest on Bank Balances ...	43,792	...	43,792	...	17,767	...	17,767	...	26,025	...
Interest and Sinking Fund ...	...	45,46,964	...	45,46,964	...	42,31,082	...	42,31,082	...	3,15,882
Contribution to Depreciation and Fire Insurance Funds.	...	1,18,750	...	1,18,750	...	1,18,750	...	1,18,750	...	...
Reconstruction of Jetty at 60 ft. River Entrance.	...	1,02,455	...	1,02,455	...	...	...	...	...	1,02,455
Removal of wreck of S.S. *Onipenta.*	...	67,689	...	67,689	...	...	...	...	...	67,689
Removal of wreck S. S. *Aral* ...	...	77	...	777	...	...	...	...	...	777
Penal interest on Debentures issued.	...	...	...	...	37,779	...	37,779	...	...	37,779
Excess found on verification of stock.	...	...	...	...	27,853	...	27,853	...	...	27,853
Compensation paid to Timber Merchants.	...	...	...	...	...	30,015	...	30,015	30,015	...
Penalty charges on coal waived or refunded.	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,117	...	1,00,117	1,00,117	...
Total ...	1,18,36,518	1,19,97,364	55,31,335	56,92,181	1,20,16,630	1,19,78,134	54,22,103	53,83,607	6,46,534	8,45,976

323 The Commissioners decided to establish a provident fund for their officers and servants, and submitted a set of rules for the working of the fund for the approval of the Government. The matter was under consideration at the close of the year. Provident Fund for the Port Commissioners' employe's.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

324. The income of the bridge amounted to Rs. 2,29,410 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,18,700. There was, therefore, a surplus of Rs. 10,710, as compared with a deficit of Rs. 5,484 in 1908-09. The receipts from railway traffic rose from Rs. 2,01,065 to Rs. 2,07,209. Finance.

325. The bridge was opened on 293 occasions, of which 59 were in the day time and 234 at night. 3,155 vessels passed through the bridge during the year, against 3,142 in 1908-09. Opening of the Bridge and vessels passed through it.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

326. The receipts of the ports increased from Rs. 8,917 in 1908-09, to Rs. 15,673 during the year under review. This was almost entirely due to a very large increase in the export of rice from False Point in Cuttack. The expenditure was Rs. 15,435 or Rs. 1,997 less than that of 1908-09, and the fund closed with a credit balance of Rs. 238. During the two preceding years, 1907-08 and 1908-09, Government had to sanction contributions in order to balance the deficit of those years. The question of improving the financial condition of the ports is under the consideration of Government. Finance.

327. The import trade in Cuttack shows a marked falling off and this is due to the figures of the previous year (1908-09) being swelled by the importation of Burma rice and paddy, owing to the prevailing scarcity in the districts of the Orissa Division. The total value of trade, however, rose from Rs. 59,87,487 in 1908-09 to Rs. 82,50,099 in 1909-10. This is due to an increase in the value of the export trade in the districts of Cuttack, Puri, and Balasore, as, owing to improved agricultural conditions, there was a large surplus stock of rice. Trade.

328. Two hundred and twenty-six vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 209,180, visited the ports, against one hundred and seventy-eight with an aggregate tonnage of 106,767, in 1907-08. Arrivals of vessels.

329. The Port Officer, who inspected all the ports, found the lights to be in good order. The erosion of Shortt's Island has continued and necessitated the removal of the light-mast some 1,720 feet S. 21° W. from its old position. Inspections.

BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES COMMISSION.

330. The Chief and Assistant Inspectors of Smoke-nuisances made more than 3,900 observations of smoke emission and more than 2,500 inspections of factories, in course of which they tested 200 stoking appliances and furnaces. It is satisfactory to note that during the year the reduction in the average emission of offensive smoke continued. There were 51 prosecutions during the year for infringement of the provisions of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905, in all of which convictions were obtained. Observation of smoke and inspections.

331. The substitution of gas and electric power for steam continued steadily, 146 electric, 1 oil and 6 gas motors being fitted during the year. Use of gas and electric power for steam.

STEAM-BOILER COMMISSION.

332. The provisions of the Bengal Steam-boilers Act, 1879, were extended to the district of Singhbhum with effect from 1st August 1909. Extension of the Act.

333. There were 4,791 boilers on the registers for the town and suburbs of Calcutta and places within the extended jurisdiction of the Commission, at the close of the year. Of this number, 4,113 boilers were inspected, and certificates granted, against 4,058 and 3,678 during 1908-09 and 1907-08, respectively; 678 boilers were not presented for inspection, being temporarily out of use. The number of new boilers inspected during the year was 336, against 573 in the previous year. There was one prosecution resulting in conviction. Inspection of boilers.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending the 30th June 1909.]

Organization.

334. Proposals for the organization of a permanent staff for the Agricultural Department are now under the consideration of the Government of India. They are confined to present requirements, including those of the provincial Agricultural College.

Agricultural stations.

335. No new agricultural station was opened during the year. It has been decided not to start any more stations until those that have been opened are placed on a proper footing, and men have been trained to take charge of new ones.

Scientific experiments.

336. The Agricultural Chemist conducted a series of experiments on the periods of maturity of certain varieties of Bengal sugarcane. His observations have resulted in fresh knowledge of their sugar-yielding qualities. The cultivation of sugarcane by the Bihar Planters' Association was not successful. The Economic Botanist made good progress in his plant-breeding work. A number of experiments with jute were carried out at the Cuttack Agricultural Station, and the authorities of the Hastings Jute Mill have reported favourably on the quality of the jute produced; but as the crop was heavily manured and the cultivation expensive, it is not likely that cultivators will profit directly by such experiments. Jute cultivation has been practically abandoned by the planters in Bihar in consequence of the fall in prices.

The prospects of the cultivation of cotton have not so far been very promising in this province. At the instance of the Imperial cotton specialist, who visited Sabour and other places during the year, further experiments are being made with the most promising varieties.

Mr. E. Vandekerkhove, the Belgian flax expert, continued his work at Dooriah in the district of Muzaffarpur under agreement with the Bihar Planters' Association. The flax produced obtained a good price on the market, and the experiment gives great promise of success.

In addition to these special experiments, a large number of experiments and demonstrations were conducted throughout the province by members of agricultural associations, and some progress was made in popularizing new crops and improved methods of agriculture. The Director of Agriculture has at present under consideration a scheme for organizing these isolated experiments and demonstrations, so as to make them more useful to the public.

Sericulture.

337. The operations for the improvement of the silk industry in Bengal, now conducted under the general control of a committee consisting of the Director of Agriculture, the Collector of Murshidabad, and four representatives of the principal silk firms in Bengal, have made some progress. The main object is to rear and distribute pure and healthy seed as widely as possible in the silk-rearing districts, through the agency of village nurseries. Six new nurseries were established during the year, three in the Murshidabad district, two in Birbhum, and one in Midnapore. Altogether, there are now eighteen nurseries. The experience of the year shows that progress is being made in the eradication of the disease known as *pebrine*, which was one of the principal causes of the decline of the silk industry. The seed of the nurseries is growing steadily in popularity in the Bengal districts, and requisitions for it were received from Rajshahi and Malda in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and from Belgaon, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Gwalior, and other parts of India. To meet the increasing demand, two more rearing houses were added to the central nursery at Berhampore. The total receipts from the sale of seed amounted to Rs. 6,566 as compared with Rs. 5,874 in the preceding year, and there was a small profit on the working of the nurseries. The experiments made with Italian mulberry in the central nursery, and those made at Calcutta in the cold storage of seed and cocoons, obtained some success.

338. A class for the training of the sons of rearers has been established in the central nursery at Berhampore. The course of instruction extends over a year, and six stipends of Rs. 8 a month have been founded. There are six boys now under training. **Training Classes.**

339. The provincial Agricultural College at Sabour is now ready and work will be commenced in November 1910. The staff in residence consists of a Principal, and Agricultural Chemist, an Economic Botanist, Assistant Professors of Agriculture, Botany, Mycology and Entomology, an Assistant Mycologist and an Assistant Entomologist; and the employment of an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, and a Demonstrator in those subjects has recently been sanctioned. In the first year only about 20 students will be admitted, of whom one-third will come from Eastern Bengal and Assam. **Agricultural education. The College.**

340. No progress has been made in the matter of agricultural education in ordinary schools. The question of improving the agricultural classes opened in the Cuttack, Gaya, Dumraon, Hazaribagh, and Burdwan schools has recently been considered by a board of examiners, on whose recommendation Government has ordered the classes at Burdwan, Hazaribagh and Cuttack to be closed for the present. The question of teaching agriculture in certain selected high schools is now under consideration, but the great difficulty is the want of suitably trained teachers, and no great progress in this direction can be expected till these are provided. **Schools.**

341. The practical training of the sons of cultivators was continued, principally at the Cuttack Farm. An attempt is being made to extend the system to other farms with the help of the local agricultural associations. **Training at farms.**

342. The agricultural fairs and shows held during the year received grants-in-aid from Government aggregating Rs. 6,978. Arrangements are being made to render these shows more useful auxiliaries to the Agricultural Department. **Fairs and Shows.**

343. Besides the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, the Department published and circulated widely, leaflets on a number of subjects in English and the vernaculars. **Publication of information about agriculture.**

344. In future it is intended to confine the work of the Fishery Department to the inland fisheries of the province. The present staff of the Fishery Department which is now under the control of the Director of Agriculture consists of two assistants—Mr. B. Das and Mr. M. Mohsin—who have visited various fishing centres in Europe and America and have acquired a general knowledge of the functions of a Fishery Department. During the year under report these two assistants devoted their time principally to two special lines of enquiry, viz., (1) experiments in the artificial propagation of carp, and (2) investigation into the spawning grounds of *hilsa*. A scheme for the future conduct of the fishery operations is now under the consideration of the Government of India. **Fisheries.**

Co-operative Credit Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Credit Societies for 1909-10. Statistics of British India—Part II—Commercial.]

345. The record of the year is one of steady and encouraging progress. The relative advance is shewn by the following table:— **Development and types of Societies.**

Year.	Central Societies.	Urban Societies.		Rural Societies.		Total number of Societies.	Membership	Capital (excluding value of grain).
		Limited liability.	Unlimited liability.	Lending cash.	Lending grain.			
								Rs.
1905-06 ...	...	4	...	53	...	57	2,606	32,000
1906-07 ...	...	4	...	173	4	181	7,884	1,10,000
1907-08 ...	...	9	10	326	5	350	12,094	2,25,000
1908-09 ...	2	13	16	359	5	395	14,604	3,65,000
1909-10 ...	4	25	22	456	4	511	22,871	6,96,993

The development indicated in this table has been achieved in spite of the fact that, for the last three years, the attention of the Registrar has been given chiefly to consolidation of the work in existing centres, and that expansion in new areas, though not deliberately discouraged, has been very cautiously permitted. The urban movement has, without much direct assistance from the Registrar, made considerable progress during the year, and urban societies have proved a boon to clerks in Government offices and mercantile firms, amongst whom indebtedness appears to be great. The urban movement, however, does not appear to have assisted to any appreciable extent the small traders and artisans of towns. On the rural side there has been much progress, which is shown both in the development and increased efficiency of the old societies, and in the actual increase in the number of societies. The expansion has taken place chiefly around old centres, and is not due to any great extent to the tapping of new areas, but, during the year, more attention was paid to Orissa, which has always been regarded as a promising field for co-operation. The grain societies remain practically stationary, but the Registrar still thinks that it is premature yet to say that this class of societies will not succeed in Bengal.

The Bengal Young Men's Zemindary Co-operative Urban Society, Limited, which was formed on special lines in 1908-09, with the object of applying the principles of co-operation in acquiring zamindari through the collective credit of the members, has not yet achieved success. The experimental cultivation of two farms undertaken during the year with a view to giving the members practical experience, proved a failure owing to the cyclone and other causes and entailed considerable loss. It is hoped, however, that under the guidance of its president, Babu Sarada Charan Mitra, the society will tide over its present difficulties and succeed after all.

Organization and general aspects.

346. The Raffeissen system has been closely followed in the constitution and management of the societies, except in the case of the Ranchi Roman Catholic Society which was registered during the year. This is a large centralized society embracing the whole Roman Catholic population of the district of Ranchi, and has been formed with the object of enabling the members of the mission to constitute themselves into a system of federative but autonomous societies within this central institution. The scheme, therefore, reverses the ordinary line of work and begins at the end, by first providing for the formation of a central banking union and then the gradual devolution of management to separate local units. It offers a very practical solution of the problem of co-operation amongst aboriginals.

Local unions.

347. Elsewhere in Bengal the policy, which is now followed, is the formation of societies within compact areas, and their organization, as they gain in strength and stability, into local self-administered unions through which they can control one another and more easily obtain financial assistance. It has been recognized from the beginning that, without a satisfactory solution of the problem of combination of rural societies in self-controlled organizations for the purpose of mutual control and finance, the movement can never be safely developed beyond very narrow limits. Towards the settlement of this question definite progress has been made. Two new unions, at Rahika in Darbhanga and Banki-Dompara in Cuttack, have been added to those formed in the previous year in Midnapore and Khulna. None of these unions are old enough to furnish material for definite conclusions, but their working tends to show that the villagers can rise from co-operation within their village to the combination of societies in a larger federation. During the year, some modifications of the original union scheme were devised to suit the conditions of backward tracts.

Need of a provincial union.

348. It is, however, apparent that the perfecting of local unions will not finally dispose of the problem of organization. Financial requirements alone will make it necessary, before very long, to attempt a wider combination. The most probable solution of the problem appears to be the formation of something in the nature of a provincial banking union located in Calcutta, which will connect the different local and district unions with one another and will also link the urban with the rural organization. In some quarters it has been suggested that such an organization should be established at once; but the time

has not yet come for an attempt to create any form of central machinery on a provincial scale. The idea, however, will be kept prominently in view.

Honorary workers.

349. Without popular interest behind it, the co-operative movement can never be a power in the land, and stress has been laid, on previous occasions, on the want of honorary organizers. The number of non-official workers is still small, and men with influence in the districts are on the whole apathetic.

Source of capital and purpose of loan.

350. Of the work in general, one striking feature is the facility with which money is now obtained from outside sources. Local capital also has increased greatly, and the unions are likely to attract this capital in increasing sums. But the most encouraging individual feature of the year's work is the growing tendency of members to make deposits in their societies. The total amount deposited has trebled itself during the year, having risen from Rs. 21,926 to Rs. 64,349. These figures are conclusive evidence of the growing faith of the members in their societies.

The advances made by Government and the Court of Wards towards the working capital of the village societies, make up about 12 per cent. of the total amount. The percentage contributed by the outside public is 43, and the advances from zamindars and local capitalists represents only 3·5 and ·89 per cent. of the capital, against 21 and 2 in the previous year. The apparent decrease in the advances from the last two sources is due to the fact that a large amount of capital is now reaching the village societies from the unions, which in time will be the principal source from which the capital of village societies will be drawn.

The analysis of the purpose for which loans are taken shows that 32 per cent. represents the repayment of old debts, 28 per cent. cultivation expenses, 11 per cent. purchase of agricultural cattle, 6 per cent. payment of rent, while less than 5 per cent. is spent on marriage and other ceremonies. This is the more remarkable when it is remembered, that no restriction is now put on the purposes for which loans may be given, and there is ample evidence that the village societies wield a moral influence in this direction which, as they extend throughout the province, may have a great effect on public opinion and practice.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1909-10; crop forecasts of Bengal for 1909-10; Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1909-10; Area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1909-10. Agricultural Statistics of India, Vol. I.]

Character of the season.

351. In the winter months there was very little rain. March also was dry, but copious showers fell in April. May was showery, but the fall was slightly below the average. In the beginning of June there was heavy rain which caused damage to the jute and other *bhadoi* crops in some districts. The defective rainfall in July and excessive rain in August did harm to the standing crops in Lower Bengal and Bihar. Later on, the cyclone of October, which travelled across the east of the province, caused some injury to sugarcane, sesamum and winter rice, but the rain in September and in the beginning of October left sufficient moisture in the soil for the sowing of the spring crops, and the showers of December and January ensured a successful harvest. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1908-09 of *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year and of a normal year:—

Name of harvest.	Normal area, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1908-09, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1909-10, in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year—	
				1908-09.	1909-10.
Bhadoi	11,139,200	10,284,900	10,901,900	65	100
Aghani { Winter rice ...	20,690,500	17,909,500	21,232,900	72	110
Aghani { Sugarcane ...	426,700	375,200	351,600	62	80
Rabi	12,286,200	9,404,900	10,500,100	67	90
Total ...	44,542,600	37,974,500	42,986,500	69	102

Bhadoi crops.

352. From the above statement it will be seen that the total area during 1909-10 under all kinds of *bhadoi* crops was estimated at 10,901,900 acres, against 10,284,900 acres in the preceding year. The normal area is 11,139,200 acres. The outturn was estimated at 100 per cent. in 1909-10, against 65 per cent. in 1908-09. The weather was favourable during the sowing period, and conditions continued generally favourable throughout the season. The excessive rain in June, however, as well as the defective rainfall in July, and heavy floods at the end of August damaged the crop in parts of Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, Shahabad, Saran, Champaran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Darjeeling and Cuttack. Injury was done by insects also in Sambalpur. In Orissa and Chota Nagpur good crops were harvested, while in other districts, except Howrah, they were fair.

The total area under *bhadoi* food crops was estimated at 9,753,300 acres, as compared with a normal area of 9,437,200 acres. The total area sown with the different kinds of *bhadoi* non-food crops, including jute, early cotton, indigo and *bhadoi til* was estimated at 1,148,600 acres, as compared with 1,185,300 acres of last year. Deficiency of rain in the winter months retarded ploughing and sowing of jute in some districts. After the end of April, however, the weather conditions were, on the whole, favourable. The Kissenganj subdivision of the Purnea district suffered severely from floods in June and Darjeeling, Cooch Behar and the Sonthal Parganas also had too much rain. The July rainfall was short in all the important jute-growing districts; while in August considerable damage to the crop was caused by excessive rain in the low-lying tracts of Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah. The outturn of the crop was estimated by the Agricultural Department at 84 per cent. of the normal. The gross yield for the province including Cooch Behar was calculated to be 13·29 lakhs of bales. The season was unfavourable to indigo. Deficiency of winter rain affected February sowings very seriously. In March and April conditions were better, but in May the rainfall was very defective. In June the rainfall was more than sufficient, but the heavy rains at the end of August affected the outturn of the second cuttings. The gross yield of thecrop for the province worked out to 17,007 factory maunds.

Aghani crops.

353. The season was very favourable for the winter rice over the whole province. Ante-monsoon showers helped the preparation of seed-beds and the ploughing of lands, and the monsoon and the *hathiya* rain in September-October were sufficient. Some damage was caused at the end of August by excessive rain and floods in a few districts of Lower Bengal and in parts of Purnea and Balasore, and the cyclone in October caused some loss in the Presidency division. Insect-pests also injured the crop in parts of Burdwan, Sambalpur and Ranchi. The area sown with winter rice in 1909-10 amounted to 21,232,900 acres, as compared with 17,909,500 acres sown in the preceding year. The normal area is 20,690,500 acres. The outturn for the province was estimated at 110 per cent. of the normal, against 72 per cent. last year. In Bihar the most important area under sugarcane the initial conditions were unfavourable, but subsequent rain improved the prospects in some districts. In Orissa and Chota Nagpur the weather was favourable throughout and the outturn was good. In South-West Bengal the crop suffered from heavy rainfall at the end of August, and the cyclone of the 17th October did damage in parts of the Presidency division. The outturn for the province was 80 per cent. of the normal.

Rabi crops.

354. In September and October rain fell generally and though there was insufficient in most districts sowing began at the normal time. The heavy rain which accompanied the cyclone of October, damaged the early sown crops in parts of the Presidency division, but in December and January there was a general and beneficial fall and a shortage in February did not injure the crops as a whole, so that, generally speaking, the season was favourable.

The total area under all kinds of *rabi* was returned as 10,500,100 acres, against 9,404,900 acres of the preceding year, the total normal area being 12,286,200 acres. The total area of various *rabi* food-crops including wheat amounted to 7,849,500 acres, against 7,038,000 acres, the estimate for the year 1908-09. The area sown with the different *rabi* non-food crops was 2,650,600 acres, against 2,366,900 acres in the preceding year, and the total outturn of all *rabi* crops (both food and non-food) was estimated at 90 per cent. of the

normal. For the early cotton crop the season was, on the whole, favourable. In the Sonthal Parganas which contains about one-third of the total area under this crop, the outturn was excellent. The season was less favourable for the late crop. In the two principal districts, Saran and Muzaffarpur, it suffered from excessive rain in August, but the less important districts reported good crops. The total outturn of cotton (both early and late) for the whole province, including Native States, was estimated at 17,407 bales, as compared with 14,711 bales last year.

Divisional summaries.

355. The monsoon set in, in the first week in June, and the rainfall in the Burdwan division was copious and well distributed throughout the sowing and transplanting season, so that the prospects of the winter rice crop were very hopeful. But heavy rains in the end of August caused floods which somewhat damaged the crops in the Arambagh, in parts of the Sadar and Serampore subdivisions of Hooghly, in the Ghatal subdivision of Midnapore and in parts of Burdwan. The complete absence of rain from the middle of October almost throughout the cold weather affected the *rabi* crop, while excessive rain in June, defective rainfall in July and heavy floods in the end of August damaged the *bhadoi* crop in parts of Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah. The total outturn of the different *bhadoi* food-crops of the division amounted to 81 per cent., and that of winter rice 84 per cent. *Rabi* food-crops yielded 82 per cent. of the normal.

Burdwan.

Presidency.

356. The rainfall in the Presidency division was everywhere much heavier than in the three preceding years, and exceeded the normal. It was also well distributed and was, on the whole, favourable to the crops, though at times excessive. Some injury was done to the standing crops here and there by the cyclone of the 17th October, which was accompanied with copious rain, particularly in Khulna and Jessore, but in Nadia the fall improved the *aman* paddy. *Bhadoi* food-crops gave an outturn of 73 per cent., while winter rice yielded 81 per cent. of a normal crop. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops was estimated at 76 per cent.

Patna.

357. In the Patna district the weather was, on the whole, very favourable for agricultural purposes, the rainfall being far heavier than in the previous year. Moreover, it was not only copious, but also evenly distributed, and the results of all kinds of crops were very good. In Gaya the rain was sufficient and evenly distributed. There was a good fall, with breaks of sunshine in the beginning of the season, which was very favourable to the *bhadoi* crop. The weather was also favourable to the winter rice. In Shahabad, the rainfall was more abundant than in the preceding year and more favourably distributed. The rainy season began early in June, and was followed by excessive rain in July and August, which affected the *bhadoi* crop to some extent, but the winter rice, wheat and other *rabi* crops were benefited.

Tirhut.

358. In Tirhut the monsoon rains set in early and the sowings were made in good time. The continued rainfall ensured an excellent yield almost throughout the division. In Champaran, excessive rain in June and July and floods towards the end of August damaged the *bhadoi* crops in the south of the Sadar and parts of the Bettiah subdivisions, and paddy in the latter subdivision suffered to some extent owing to the scanty rainfall in September and October. Insect-pests appeared in the sadar subdivision and damaged the oilseeds to some extent, but, on the whole, the condition of the crops was good. In Saran, the west winds at the time of flowering and the excessive rain when they were ripening did some damage to the *bhadoi* crops, while the winter rice suffered to some extent from want of rain in October. Some damage to barley was caused by rust, and the mustard was affected by green fly.

Bhagalpur.

359. In the Bhagalpur division, the rainfall of the year was above the normal and exceeded that of the preceding three years. It was not only abundant, but well distributed, and the general result was a good outturn of almost all the principal crops. Jute is grown in all districts except Monghyr, and is extensively cultivated in Purnea, which is the most important jute-growing district in the province. The outturn of this district, where the crop suffered to some extent owing to floods in the Kishanganj subdivision, was 74 per cent., as against 55 of the previous year. The yield of sugarcane

was generally good, especially in the Sonthal Parganas, where it was a bumper crop.

Orissa.

360. In Orissa, the rainfall was sufficient and generally evenly distributed till October. Casual rain in April and May rendered possible the timely preparation of the land for the *bhadoi* and winter rice crops. The monsoon broke early and the prospects of the paddy crop up to the end of July were generally good. In June and July the rainfall was satisfactory, but it was somewhat deficient in September and October, and entirely ceased from November, but for which the winter rice crop would have been a bumper one. On the whole, the outturns of the autumn and winter paddy and of the *rabi* crops were far better than those obtained in the previous year, and, generally speaking, the year was a prosperous one. All the districts of the division got almost normal outturns of the principal paddy crops except Angul and Puri, but even there the *rabi* crop was much better than in the previous year. In Balasore, the rainfall was the highest in the last five years and the outturn of crops was above the average. The yield of both the *bhadoi* food-crops and the winter rice was estimated at 95 per cent.

Chota Nagpur.

361. In the Chota Nagpur division the rainfall of the year was normal in quantity, and its distribution was, on the whole, favourable, especially in Ranchi and Hazaribagh. The outturn of the crops was above the normal in Ranchi and Manbhum; in Hazaribagh and Palamau it was greater, but in Singhbhum it was less, than the previous year. *Bhadoi* food-crops gave an outturn of 95 per cent., winter rice 100 per cent. and *rabi* food-crops 86 per cent. of the normal.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden for 1909-10.]

General.

362. Weather conditions were pratically normal throughout the year, and the Royal Botanic Garden was kept in good order. The chief out-door work done was the thinning of the over-crowded parts of the garden, the development of vistas along suitable lines, and the continued improvement of the nursery and the means of dealing with plant distribution. As the river bank which bounds the garden collapsed in many places owing to the heavy tides of September, measures were taken to check the scour of the tides by planting buttresses out into the channel at intervals so as to cause the precipitation of silt. The result was that the river itself helped to repair, under new conditions, the damage done under the old. Selected overseers from Bengal and from Eastern Bengal and Assam went through a course of instruction in arboriculture during the rains.

Economic.

363. A large number of seeds or plants of economic importance have been received from other botanical, agricultural, and forestry departments throughout the world as well as from private individuals, while the garden has distributed to various departments and places a great variety of plants and seeds—both those of general economic importance, and those of peculiar species, such as rubber and fibre-yielding plants, lemon-grasses, mangoes, cinchona, ipecacuanha and tea. Nearly 1,500 packets of seed were received and over 4,700 packets distributed, while over 3,000 plants were received from various sources and nearly 44,000 were distributed. The latter figure does not include about 15,000 plants of Azolla sent to various parts of India, in order that its power of preventing the generation of mosquito larvæ in tanks might be tested. The bulk of the plants distributed were roadside trees, shrubs and flowering plants; but nearly 300 plants of manicoba rubber were sent out.

Herbarium.

364. Over twenty thousand specimens were received in, and over ten thousand distributed from, the herbarium. Most of the specimens received were Indian. Duplicates were distributed to the chief botanic gardens and herbaria throughout the world, and material of various orders and genera for study by specialists was sent out on loan as usual.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

365. The garden was mapped out into squares of one hundred feet each way, and about half the non-herbaceous plants in the garden were numbered

with stamped tickets. The regularizing of the slopes was continued and most of them and of the lawns were renewed. The collection of living plants was as usual increased, and among the year's additions, a set of willows from M. Dodi of Paris deserves special mention. Among the Indian collection, some surprising experience as regards tolerance of the Darjeeling climate on the part of different species was gained. Over 5,000 pot plants and over 2,700 dozens of annual seedlings, were distributed to Government institutions and more than 1,000 packets of seeds were sent out, mostly abroad. The herbarium and the library were greatly improved as well as the means of dealing with the distribution of high level seeds.

366. In the Calcutta gardens consisting of the Eden gardens, Dalhousie Square garden, Curzon garden and Hastings House gardens, only horticultural work is undertaken, and every effort is made to improve their appearance year by year. In 1909, a number of flower beds were laid out on the Esplanade corner adjoining the Curzon garden and planted up temporarily. Calcutta Gardens.

Cinchona Plantation and Factory.

367. Weather conditions were practically normal throughout the year. On Mungpoo 123·33 inches of rain, or about the average, fell but on Munsong the fall was 101·82, which is considerably above 87·65 the average for the last eight years. General.

368. Extensions of cinchona cultivation were made only on the Munsong Plantation, where steps were taken to open out two new divisions—Kashyem and Burmiak flanking the original—and now central—Munsong Division, the planting of which had been completed. One hundred acres in all were planted up. Extensions.

369. As funds could not be allotted to purchase enough bark to supplement the present meagre plantation supply up to the maximum capacity of the factory, the expenses of working increased, and the production of quinine sulphate fell from 36,619 lbs. to 23,096½ lbs. during the year. In addition to quinine sulphate, 2,390 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were produced and 220½ lbs. of residual alkaloids collected. The total output of the factory was 25,487 lbs. against a total of 43,901lbs. for the previous year. Outturn.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report of the Forest Department in the Province of Bengal for the year 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

370. There has been a net decrease of 1,243 acres in the area of reserved forests. This decrease would have been greater had it not been that the area of the Singhbhum Forest Division was increased by 5,018 acres by the addition of a group of revenue villages and two blocks of protected forest, a course which was found to be necessary in order to improve the boundary of the reserved forests and to avoid the annual upkeep of an unnecessary length of boundary. Six thousand and two hundred acres of the Tista Forest division were placed at the disposal of the Cinchona Department for the extension of cinchona cultivation. Changes in area.

371. Less progress was made during the year under review than during the preceding year in constructing new lines of communication, and thereby opening out the forests through which they pass. For this decrease the Singhbhum division was responsible, owing mainly to want of the establishment necessary to look after the construction of new roads, which are now reaching the remoter parts of the forests, and are consequently not easily supervised. Revised programmes for the more rapid construction of roads and buildings in the Tista and Puri divisions for the next five years were drawn up during the year and sanctioned by Government. In the Sunderbans division an effort was made to open out water communications which frequently become obstructed. The expenditure on new buildings shows a considerable increase over the figures of the preceding year. Communications and Buildings.

Breaches of Forest Law.

372. In most divisions the variations in the numbers of cases reported are slight. Severe measures were taken against illicit poaching of deer in the Sunderbans,—an offence which it is difficult to prevent.

Forest fires.

373. Forest fires caused extensive damage in the plains divisions during the year under review, owing, it is said, to the lateness of the monsoon. Sambalpur suffered the most. The arrangements made in recent years for joint action between the Forest Department and the rulers or managers of neighbouring Native States for maintaining fire lines have worked well. Arrangements with the Nepal Darbar for the clearing of a joint fire line from Manibhanjan to Phalut along the Singalila forests of the Darjeeling division were completed during the year.

Protection from cattle and against injuries from natural causes.

374. The area of the reserved forests open to the grazing of all animals remained unchanged. The entire reserved forest area, with the exception of a few square miles in the Tista and Palamau divisions, was closed to the grazing of goats and sheep. Great havoc was caused in the Sunderbans division by the cyclone of 1909, which is reported to have damaged millions of trees. The destruction was necessarily most severe in areas in which thinnings had been made in recent years. The damage done by wild elephants in the Tista division was considerable, while that done in Angul has decreased to an appreciable extent in consequence of the Khedda operations undertaken by Government in that district. Unfortunately it has been difficult to find a ready market for the animals captured. Sales have been few and the proceeds have not covered the expenditure, so that from a financial point of view the operations cannot be said to have been a success.

Financial results.

375. The cyclone was responsible for a decrease of revenue in the Sunderbans division. Angul continues to be worked at a deficit. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 11,27,230 and the expenditure to Rs. 6,02,031, showing a net revenue of Rs. 5,25,199 against Rs. 6,20,442 in the previous year. The figure recorded in 1908-09 is, however, exceptionally high. The revenue obtained during the year under review compares favourably with the average yearly revenue during the quinquennial period ending 1908-09, while the percentage of revenue spent during 1909-10 fell to 53·1 from the percentage of the quinquennial period, 54·7.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial.]

Jute and Cotton.

376. The area under jute increased from 570,700 acres with an outturn of 1,065,900 bales in 1908 to 575,400 acres with an outturn of 1,329,400 bales, including Cooch Behar. Fifty-seven mills were at work at the close of the year as against forty-nine in 1908, giving daily employment to 202,258 persons, an increase of 12,755. The nominal rupee and sterling capital employed was Rs. 7,08,05,000 and £2,913,258. There was no increase in the number of cotton mills or the nominal capital sunk in them, but the average daily number of hands employed sank from 11,572 in 1908 to 10,505.

Tea.

377. In the Darjeeling district there were 154 plantations with a total area of 51,220 acres under tea, as against 158 plantations and 51,614 acres in 1908. Owing to mosquito blight and drought the outturn fell from 13,228,848 lbs. to 12,902,821 lbs. In the Chota Nagpur division there was a further slight decrease both in the area under cultivation and the quantity of tea produced.

Coal.

378. Four hundred and sixty-five coal mines were worked during the year 1909, against four hundred and fifty-eight in the previous year. The total output was 10,660,811 tons, which is less than the quantity raised in 1908 by 899,100 tons. The trade received a set back towards the end of 1908 and it did not recover completely during the following year. The demand was not equal to the supply and stocks accumulated throughout the coal fields. The Jharia mines produced only 5,832,672 tons, against 6,458,843 in the preceding year. The daily average number of persons employed in the mines in Bengal fell from 112,219 to 102,253.

379. The output of mica further decreased from 36,060 cwt. to 22,084 cwt., valued at Rs. 15,85,245. The total amount of iron raised was 72,711 tons, an increase of 18,250 tons, and its value is estimated at Rs. 2,16,465, a rise of Rs. 65,942. Mica and Iron Ore.

380. During the year, 55,060 tons of manganese ore, valued at Rs. 6,53,445, were produced, as against 20,000 tons, valued at Rs. 3,27,000, in the previous year. This notable increase, which is due to the further opening up of the deposits in the Gangpur State, balanced the decrease in output of the other four provinces. Manganese Ore.

381. The total area placed under indigo was 107,400 acres, as against 135,300 acres in the previous year. The decrease in the outturn from 26,331 factory maunds to 17,007 maunds is due to defective rainfall during the sowings, heavy rain in the end of August and a generally poor outturn from the second cuttings. Indigo.

382. In the past year 398,799 cwts. of saltpetre, valued at Rs. 43,68,896, and 34 tons of salt including 11 tons lying in store, valued at Rs. 742, were manufactured. Saltpetre and salt.

383. In the Presidency division, though the sugar manufacturing industry received some impetus from the *swadeshi* movement, it is declining owing to the competition of bounty-fed foreign sugar. There is, however, evidence to show that raw sugar and molasses were in greater demand than in previous years, for the purposes of adulteration of higher grades of imported sugar so that the latter might supply the demand for home-made sugar. Molasses continue to be manufactured in all districts of the Burdwan and the Bhagalpur divisions. Sugar is manufactured more or less in all the districts of the Patna and Tirhut divisions. In the Tirhut division a sugar factory worked by machinery which was started at Siwan but remained closed during 1908-09, was reopened. There are three sugar factories in Champaran, viz., at Barrah, Seeraha and Pursa, but in Darbhanga the sugar industry is declining. Sugar.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Annual reports of Divisional Commissioners, 1909-10.]

384. The most important articles of manufacture in this division are gunny bags and gunny cloth, cotton twist and yarn, hand-made cotton cloth, silk yarn and silk cloth, paper, sugar and molasses. Other manufactures are saltpetre, shellac, lac dye, brass and bell-metal ware, padlocks, steel trunks and boxes, iron chests, coarse cutlery, soap, match-boxes, card-board, ice and ærated waters, country-made tobacco, oil, blankets and shoes. Paper of all kinds usually in demand is manufactured in the two paper mills at Titaghur and Kankinara, both lying in the 24-Parganas. In addition to the Sambhu mills at Dayanagar in Murshidabad and at Maheshgunge in Nadia, there are a few castor and mustard oil mills in the 24-Parganas. The silk industry in Murshidabad received an impetus from the establishment of the head office of the Superintendent of Sericulture, Bengal, at Berhampore and the exertions of the Bengal Silk Committee. Presidency.

385. The coal industry, though on the whole flourishing, suffered considerable depression as a re-action from the boom of preceding years and the general industrial inactivity. The brass-ware industry, which once flourished in Katwa subdivision, is declining owing, it is said, to difficulties in transport caused by the silting up of the Bhagirathi. In Bankura the manufacture of silk and *tasar* cloths, brass and German silver wares, cutlery, tobacco and conch shell ornaments continued to flourish. An Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition was held in Chinsura in February, and attempts were made to introduce new industries into the Hooghly district and to effect improvements in existing ones. Burdwan.

386. Besides indigo, tea, molasses, cinchona, the other notable articles of manufacture in this division are silk and mixed silk and cotton cloth at Bhagalpur, guns, pistols and cigarettes at Monghyr, *bidri* wares and mats at Purnea, and *khukris* and their sheaths in Darjeeling. The Peninsular Tobacco Company, which started a factory in Monghyr for the manufacture of cigarettes in 1908, is reported to have suffered considerably owing to the imposition of Bhagalpur.

the new tobacco duties and the difficulty of obtaining tobacco suitable for manufacturing purposes. Two small hosiery factories, which were established at Bhagalpur and one factory for the manufacture of soap and cutlery, started in Purnea, failed as the articles turned out could not compete with the cheaper imported articles.

Patna. 387. The Industrial Exhibition, which has been held regularly each year at Bankipore since 1907 has resulted in the development in some degree of the various industries of the division and more specially of the Patna district. In this district all the industries are directed towards supplying the domestic needs of the people. Considerable progress has been made in the development of the tanning and iron foundry trades. The chief articles of manufacture are carpets, *durries*, copper and brass utensils, woollen blankets, palanquins, *ekkas*, boots, glass, jasmine oil, wooden furniture and gold and silver embroidered cloth. The principal articles manufactured in the district of Gaya are stoneware, padlocks, metalware, gold and silver ornaments, carpets, blankets, *tasar* silk, coarse cotton cloths, lac, sugar, tobacco, hides and saltpetre. In the district of Shahabad sugar-refining, carpet-making and the manufacture of coarse cloth, pottery tiles, saltpetre, lime and stoneware are the chief industries.

Tirhut. 388. Besides opium and other excisable articles, the principal manufactures in this division are indigo, saltpetre and sugar. The planters suffered severely from the competition of the German artificial indigo as well as from adverse agricultural seasons.

Chota Nagpur. 389. The chief industries of the Chota Nagpur division are coal and mica mining, the exploiting of timber, the collection of lac, catechu and *tasar* cocoons, and the manufacture of shellac, tea, *tasar* cloth, coarse blankets, brass and bell-metal utensils and ornaments, soapstone plates, bowls, etc., cutlery, guns, and ropes of *sabai* grass. Lac, *tasar* cocoons, *sabai* grass and catechu abound in the jungles and are largely exported. Hides and horns also are collected all over the division by persons licensed for the purpose and are exported in a considerable quantity. Next to agriculture by far the most important industry in the division is mines. Coal is extensively worked in Hazaribagh and Manbhum and Palamau, mica in Hazaribagh, and lime, iron and copper in Hazaribagh and Singhbhum. Shellac is manufactured in the districts of Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum and Singhbhum. *Tasar* cloth and soapstone plates, bowls, etc., are manufactured only in the districts of Manbhum and Singhbhum. Sword-sticks, spears, daggers, *bhojalis* and other articles of ironware are made in some parts of the district of Manbhum. Coarse cotton cloth, brass and bell-metal utensils, and rough brass ornaments are manufactured in all the districts.

Orissa. 390. The only manufacture for which the Orissa division has any reputation outside its own borders is that of filigree silver work; and this is not in a flourishing condition. A tannery started in Cuttack has met with some measure of success; and besides the ordinary leather goods industry, simple articles of every day use among the poorer classes, such as coarse cloths, bell-metal and brass utensils, bamboo mats and baskets, etc., are manufactured. An industrial school started at Balasore under the superintendence of the American Baptist Mission is doing useful work.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for 1909: Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial.]

Number of factories and system of work. 391. The number of factories at the close of the year was 252 as against 223 at the close of the year 1908. Twenty-nine new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year under report, viz., five in Calcutta, fourteen in the 24-Parganas, five in Howrah, two in Hooghly, one in Monghyr, one in Cuttack, and one in Singhbhum. There was a decrease of four factories, viz., one in Howrah, one in Muzaffarpur, one in Saran and one in Cuttack. Five new jute mills were opened during 1909. The total number of jute mills now working in Bengal is fifty-seven. In one hundred and eleven factories, work was carried on by shifts or sets, in one hundred and twenty with

mid-day stoppages, in ten under a system of shifts and mid-day stoppages combined and in eight with other arrangements. The remaining three factories were closed throughout the year. The average daily number of operatives employed was 309,680 as compared with 302,222 employed in the previous year.

Inspections.

392. Inspections were made in fifteen factories once, in sixteen factories twice, in thirty-three factories three times and in one hundred and eighty-one factories four times or more. The inspections were generally useful, and the suggestions and remarks made by the inspecting officers as a rule received prompt attention from the managers concerned.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation.

393. The sanitary condition and arrangements of the factories are reported to have been generally satisfactory. In the Presidency division a few of the smaller factories still have latrines of old or defective patterns, but they are being gradually replaced by modern structures. Septic tank latrines have been adopted in certain factories in the Burdwan, Presidency and Bhagalpur divisions. In the Jamalpur workshops the adoption of a septic sewage installation on the closed separate septic tank system is still under consideration.

Quarters for operatives.

394. Most of the factories in the Burdwan and Presidency divisions have provided excellent cooly lines for their operatives; the sanitary arrangements of these lines were on the whole good. The Municipality of Howrah did much to prevent overcrowding and to improve the sanitary condition of the *busties* in which the Howrah mill-hands live.

Water-supply.

395. The water-supply is generally adequate and good. Most of the mills have installed Jewell filters, and storage tanks are being constructed with a view to securing an abundant supply. Factories not connected with any of the municipal mains, get their supply either from the river or from tanks, and in such cases, where filters were not provided, cholera occasionally broke out. Attempts are being made to induce the managers to instal Jewell filters with a view to preventing the recurrence of this disease.

Vaccinaton of operatives.

396. Vaccination was duly carried out in almost all the factories. In cases where unprotected children were found by medical inspectors, they were either vaccinated or discharged from the factories at once. No case of resistance to vaccination was reported.

General health of the operatives.

397. Small-pox was prevalent for three months, and malarial fever throughout the year. A few isolated cases of cholera occurred. With these exceptions, the health of the operatives in all the factories was reported to have been generally good.

Wages and general condition of the operatives.

398. There was no noticeable change in the rates of wages which were generally higher than those earned by the people of the same class working outside the mills. On the whole, the general condition of the operatives was good.

Employment of women and children.

399. The Certifying Surgeon of Factories, who has been appointed as an experiment, took up his duties in August 1909. His inspections are at present limited to 12 large mills in the vicinity of Calcutta, where they have been useful as a check upon the employment of children under age. During the period from 12th August 1909 to the end of the year, 6,920 children were certified to be fit for employment and 243 rejected as unfit. The question of making the appointment of the Certifying Surgeon permanent was under consideration.

Fencing of the machinery: accidents.

400. A number of serious accidents occurred during the year under review, resulting in loss of life in 44 instances. Jute-softening machines were responsible for a large percentage of these accidents, the risk of which, however, will be considerably minimised as fencing and other protective appliances are introduced. A proposal that the adoption of an automatic stop gear should be made compulsory in all factories in which jute-softening machines are employed, was accepted, and a new rule issued to this effect. It is satisfactory to observe that no accidents occurred in the working of calender machines after the introduction of the safety roller. The only method by which the number of accidents can be reduced is by the adoption of the rules insisting on the use of protective appliances in all machinery, the working of which is attended by danger to the life or limbs of the operatives.

Prosecutions.

401. Four prosecutions were instituted under the Indian Factories Act during the year, two for working children beyond the statutory seven hours

per diem, one for failure to fence machinery, and one for failure to report accident. All four prosecutions were successful and resulted in the imposition of two fines of Rs. 100 each, one of Rs. 150 and one of Rs. 200. The manager of the Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mill was warned for removing the fencing of the carding machines while the machines were in motion, and thereby causing two serious accidents.

Fire. 402. In February 1909, a fire broke out in the Raniganj jute Mill, but was extinguished immediately by the police. In April another fire which was extinguished before the arrival of the fire brigade broke out in the godown of the Ganges Jute Mills. The cause of fire could not be traced in either case.

Strike. 403. In October 1909, more than 300 weavers of the Bally Jute Mills struck work as they failed to obtain an increase of wages. The mills had to be closed for a short time; eventually the strikers resumed work on obtaining a slight increase. There was no breach of the peace.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. Review of the Trade of India. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial.]

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1909-10.]

Foreign trade. Merchandise. 404. The trade of the province in 1909-10 represents an advance of 5·7 per cent on the total of 1908-09. The latter year, however, was one of general depression of trade; and the improvement indicates not so much real development in trade as a partial recovery from the stringency of the previous year. Both imports and exports show increases, the former one of 5·4 per cent. and the latter one of 5·9 per cent. The extent to which the foreign trade of the province is centred in the chief port, Calcutta, will be apparent from the following figures (000's omitted):—

	Province.	Calcutta.	Subordinate ports.
Merchandise—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	46,62,16	46,62,15	1
Exports	70,31,95	69,88,70	43,25

The trade of the subordinate ports is made up chiefly of exports of rice.

Treasure. 405. Imports of treasure were valued at Rs. 5,44·58 lakhs, as compared with 3,57·38 lakhs in the preceding year, an advance of 52·4 per cent. The exports on the other hand showed a decline of 65·9 per cent., the figures having fallen from Rs. 49·58 lakhs to Rs. 16·9 lakhs. No gold or silver was imported by the state during the year. All the treasure imported into and exported from the province of Bengal was received at or sent from Calcutta.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles imported. 406. This section of the foreign sea-borne trade of Bengal forms about 40 per cent. of the total. Its value in 1909-10 was 46·62 crores, as against 44·24 crores in 1908-09, an advance of 5·4 per cent. The value was distributed as follows among the principal articles (*figures are in thousands of rupees*):—

	1907-08.	1908-09.	1909-10.
Cotton goods	23,73,10	16,20,81	20,20,80
Metals	5,91,20	5,19,38	5,51,16
Sugar	3,78,04	4,61,61	5,02,23
Machinery and mill work ...	2,65,95	2,91,38	1,82,02
Railway plant and rolling stock ...	3,12,43	2,64,00	2,12,64
Kerosene oil	98,79	1,24,16	84,49
Hardware and cutlery ...	1,11,43	96,42	96,87
Woollen goods	69,15	77,22	52,67
Salt	62,80	67,25	52,28
Chemicals and drugs	63,85	56,39	64,18
Spices	70,68	57,27	52,84
Liquors	59,08	56,96	59,80

407. The value of cotton goods amounted to 20·21 crores and represented 43·4 per cent. of the value of total imports. Compared with 1908-09 the result is a considerable increase of about four crores, or 24·7 per cent. and all kinds of cotton manufactures participated in the recovery. Imports of twist and yarn amounted to 10·55 million lbs, being valued at 81·93 lakhs, an increase of 12·7 per cent. in quantity, but only one of 5·1 per cent. in value, due to increased importation of coarser counts. The arrivals of piece-goods aggregated 1,255·42 million yards and were valued at 18·41 crores. These figures represent increases of 28·3 per cent in quantity and 25·5 per cent. in value. Gray goods advanced by 220 million yards (+30 per cent.), whites by 45·41 million yards (+32·2 per cent.) and coloured by 12 million yards, or 11·3 per cent. Other cotton fabrics increased by Rs. 21·9 lakhs (+28·8 per cent.). Of the entire trade in cotton goods, 94·6 per cent. was derived from the United Kingdom, as against 94·9 per cent. in 1908-09, Japan with 1·6 per cent., securing second place. **Cotton goods.**

408. The value of the year's imports amounted to 551·16 lakhs, an improvement of 6·1 per cent. With the exception of steel, lead and German silver, the other items are marked by a recovery from the previous year's stagnation. On the other hand steel declined by Rs. 3·36 lakhs, or 1·9 per cent. The decrease occurred chiefly under bars. Iron, wrought and unwrought, is marked by an advance of 13·3 per cent., the increase being most noticeable under galvanised sheets and ridging. Arrivals of copper, wrought and unwrought, were higher by 11·9 per cent. in quantity and 4·3 per cent. in value. Tin increased from 24·42 lakhs to 27·11 lakhs and zinc from 6·87 lakhs to 9·05 lakhs. **Metals and manufactures of metals.**

409. Sugar represents about 10·8 per cent. of the total value of goods imported, and it has maintained for a series of years its position as the third largest single article of import. Excluding confectionery, the quantity imported was 5,990,800 cwts. with a value of 497·52 lakhs, an increase of 6 per cent. in quantity and one of 8·6 per cent. in value. Java continued to strengthen her position as the leading supplier. A certain amount of interest attaches also to the circumstance that Java and Mauritius contributed jointly 96·2 per cent. of the total, as it shows that in spite of India being the largest single producer of cane sugar the province of Bengal alone needs an enormous quantity of external cane sugar. Austria-Hungary monopolised the best market, but the arrivals were smaller by 49,335 cwts. than in the previous year. **Sugar.**

410. Imports under this head declined from 2·91 crores to 1·82 crores, or by 37·5 per cent. With the jute, coal and sugar industries suffering from severe depressions, the result could not be otherwise. The fall in textile machinery for jute mills was one of 39 per cent. and in mining machinery one of 96 per cent. The United Kingdom sent nearly 96 per cent. of the total imports. **Machinery and mill work.**

411. Imports on private accounts contracted from 264 lakhs to 213 lakhs, or by 19·4 per cent., but the aggregate of private and state imports shows a decline from 387 lakhs to 307 lakhs, or 20·7 per cent. only. Of the total imports, the United Kingdom accounted for 96 per cent. **Railway plant and rolling stock.**

412. The total importation of foreign kerosene oil was 24·3 million gallons with a declared value of 84·49 lakhs, a decline of 28 per cent. in volume and 32 per cent. in value. Of the quantity received, 19 million gallons were brought in bulk and 5·3 million gallons in cases. The keen competition of Burma oil is responsible for the falling off in the arrivals of foreign oil. The United States supplied some 57 per cent. There were no imports either from Russia or from Roumania. **Kerosene oil.**

413. This class exhibits a very small increase of ·5 per cent., the imports being valued at 96·87 lakhs. The improvement occurred chiefly in the imports of lampware. **Hardware and cutlery.**

414. The imports of woollen goods contracted from 77·22 lakhs to 52·67 lakhs. Owing to the low range of prices which prevailed during the previous year, dealers hesitated to make further additions to the heavy stocks which they had in hand. The bulk of the decline was in the imports of shawls from Germany which country holds a practical monopoly of that line. Woollen piece-goods also declined by 3·43 lakhs, or by 10·8 per cent. Germany did **Woollen goods.**

30·9 per cent. of the trade, while the share of the United Kingdom was 61·7 per cent.

Salt. 415. The value of the imports of foreign salt amounted to 52·28 lakhs, as compared with 67·25 lakhs in 1908-09. Imports of Liverpool salt amounted to 132,957 tons, of Spanish salt to 105,979 tons and of salt from Red Sea ports and Aden to 80,008 tons. Spanish salt was not so popular as in the previous year, and Liverpool salt nearly returned to the level of normal years.

Chemicals, drugs and medicines. 416. The value of imports under this class amounted to 64·18 lakhs, as against 56·4 lakhs in the previous year. Chemicals improved from 29·3 lakhs to 31·59 lakhs. Imports of quinine exceeded those of the previous year by some 53·5 per cent. in volume and 36·3 per cent. in value. There was a revived demand during the year for patent and proprietary medicines.

Tobacco. 417. The imports of tobacco amounted to 3·8 million lbs. and had a value of 40·79 lakhs, as compared with 2·26 million lbs. with a value of 32·41 lakhs in 1908-09. Cigarettes which made up so far the bulk of the trade showed a small fall of 6 per cent. in weight and of 27·78 millions in number; but the value was higher by some 2·5 per cent. owing to the fact that the imports were made up relatively of a greater proportion of the superior cigarettes. With effect from the 25th February 1910 the duties on tobacco were considerably enhanced and one result of the enhancement was that the year closed with some 1,100 packages chiefly of cheap cigarettes in bond. A large number of these has since been re-shipped. Unmanufactured tobacco advanced from 625,732 lbs. to 2,119,739 lbs. in quantity and from Rs. 2·5 lakhs to Rs. 8·55 lakhs in value. During the year cigarette-making factories were started at Monghyr and at Rangpur.

Spices. 418. The total quantity of spices expanded from 76·5 million lbs. to 80·3 million lbs., but the value receded from 57·27 lakhs to 52·84 lakhs. Betel-nuts and pepper, chiefly from the Straits Settlements, are the two premier items in this class. The imports of the first item advanced by 8·19 million lbs., but the value was higher only by Rs. 3·6 lakhs, or 9 per cent., a fall of 2·3 per cent. in specific value.

Liquors. 419. The total trade increased in volume by 69,203 gallons, or by 4·4 per cent. and in value by 2·84 lakhs, or 5 per cent. Spirit advanced by 83,885 gallons and Rs. 3·1 lakhs, an improvement of 15 per cent. in quantity and 9 per cent. in value. Wines show a small quantitative decline of 1 per cent., but the value increased by 1·4 per cent. The enhanced duties which came into force from 25th February 1910 did not affect the trade of the year. Their effect will no doubt be visible in the current year's statistics.

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries. 420. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal contributing countries in the import trade of Calcutta:—

	1908-09.	1909-10.	1908-09.	1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Total Imports.	44,23,72,258	46,62,16,199	100	100
United Kingdom	30,63,45,796	32,99,86,528	69·2	70·8
Java ...	4,12,62,274	4,52,29,662	9·3	9·7
Belgium ...	1,52,63,542	1,32,79,424	3·5	2·8
Germany ...	1,48,58,382	1,27,65,876	3·3	2·7
United States	1,33,36,463	1,39,31,948	3·0	3·0
Austria-Hungary	74,39,195	71,92,172	1·7	1·5

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles exported. 421. The export trade of the province in merchandise during 1909-10 formed about 60 per cent. of the sum of imports and exports. Its value was 70·32 crores of rupees as compared with 66·4 crores in the previous year, the increase being thus one of 5·9 per cent. The principal articles in the export

trade and their values are given in the following statement in the order of their importance (*figures are in thousands of rupees*):—

	1908-09.	1908-09.	1909-10.	1909-10.
Jute, raw ...	16,81,91	32,50,77	13,11,00	30,15,64
„ manufactured ...	15,68,86		17,04,64	
Tea		7,47,58		8,08,21
Hides and skins ...		6,81,23		6,98,61
Opium		6,29,78		6,85,76
Grain and pulse ...		2,64,94		5,54,35
Oilseeds		2,46,96		3,46,63
Lac		2,76,53		2,76,48
Cotton, raw		73,94		1,22,00
Coal and Coke		50,47		67,07
Silk, raw		37,99		27,71
Indigo		38,24		24,42

422. The shipments of raw jute amounted to 13·36 million cwts. and were valued at Rs. 13·11 crores, a decline of 15·46 per cent. in volume and of 22 per cent. in value. The official forecast placed the probable outturn at 72 lakhs bales; but the actual quantity brought into Calcutta and at the mill stations totalled 81,99,008 bales. The publication of the forecast hardened prices somewhat, but they broke before long and the average shipping rate was Rs. 35, as compared with Rs. 38 per bale in the previous year. The consumption in the local mills is estimated at 42·7 lakhs of bales, as against the estimate of 39·8 lakhs (actuals being 35·9 lakhs only) for the previous year. The United Kingdom, Germany and United States of America (the three principal importers of the fibre) took smaller quantities than in 1908-09; their relative shares of the total quantity shipped were— Jute, raw and manufactured.

United Kingdom	38 per cent.
Germany	22·9 „
France	12·3 „
United States of America	9·7 „

As regards jute manufactures, the quantity of gunny-bags exported increased by 63,588,955 in number, or 21·2 per cent., but owing to lower range of prices the increase in value was one of Rs. 84·54 lakhs, or 10·9 per cent. only, shipments of gunny cloth were also better by 169,962,071 yards, or 22·1 per cent., but for the reason just stated the rise in value was one of Rs. 53·43 lakhs, or 6·8 per cent. only. The United States of America, the leading customer in this line, took some 18 per cent. more value than in 1908-09. The Payne-Aldrick Tariff probably gave some spurt to the imports. Australasia occupied the second place and took 18·5 per cent. more than in the preceding year, while the Argentine Republic which, in previous years, was the second largest buyer of jute fabrics, took 23·3 per cent. less. A noticeable feature of the year was the marked expansion in the shipments of gunnies to the treaty ports of China to meet the demand of the Manchurian soya bean trade.

423. The exports of tea were the largest on record. They aggregated 179,077,332 lbs., valued at Rs. 8·08 crores, and were higher than those of the preceding year by 5·4 per cent. in volume and 8·1 per cent. in value. The average price realised at local sales was 6 annas 10 pies, against 5 annas 11·7 pies of the previous year. Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 128 million lbs. with a declared value of Rs. 576·1 lakhs and they show an increase of 4·8 and 5·5 per cent. in volume and value, respectively, over the previous year's figures. Russia continued to hold its rank as the second best customer, taking approximately 30 million lbs., of this quantity some 65 per cent. was shipped *vid* Ceylon and Hankow. Shipments to Australasia were disappointing for the greater part of the year; towards the end, however, there came a revival and the total fell short of the 1908-09 figure by 4·2 per cent. only. Exports to the United States and Canada were almost on the level of the previous year. Tea.

Opium.

424. During the year the sales of provision opium were further curtailed in consonance with the declared policy of the Government of India. Shipments in 1909-10 totalled 43,465 chests valued at Rs. 685·76 lakhs, and were smaller than those of the preceding year by 3·3 per cent. in volume; but the value shows an increase of 8·9 per cent. owing to a further rise in prices. The number of chests notified for sale in 1908 was 46,800 chests, the quantity offered for sale in 1909 was 43,200 chests. The average price realised at Calcutta sales was Rs. 1,612 per chest, as against Rs. 1,384 in the preceding year.

Hides and skins.

425. The improvement of the previous year was maintained. Exports of raw hides aggregated 696,734 cwts. and were valued at Rs. 442·47 lakhs, yielding an average rate of Rs. 63·5 per cwt., as against Rs. 65·1 per cwt. in the previous year. Shipments of raw skins totalled 310,177 cwts., valued at Rs. 256·13 lakhs, an advance of 6·6 per cent. over the value of previous year's shipments. As in past years, Germany and the United States were the chief buyers, the former taking 323,843 cwts., valued at Rs. 196·41 lakhs, and the latter 321,348 cwts., valued at Rs. 240·92 lakhs. Under the Payne-Aldrich Tariff raw hides and skins are entitled to entry free of import duty.

Lac.

426. The quantity of lac shipped during the year is the highest on record; it amounted to 28,238 tons and exceeded the exports of the preceding year by 50 per cent. The declared shipment rate fell, however, from Rs. 73·3 per cwt. to Rs. 50 per cwt., so that the total value remains on last year's level. The United States took 45 per cent., the United Kingdom 25 per cent. and Germany 18 per cent. of the total exports.

Grain and Pulse.

427. Agricultural prosperity is reflected in the figures of exports of grain and pulse which show an improvement of 159·4 per cent. in volume and 109·2 per cent. in value on those of the previous year which was marked by famine conditions. The two principal cereals of export are rice and wheat. The rice crop in Bengal was an excellent one; as a result shipments to foreign countries assumed their normal dimensions and there was a concomitant decline in the arrivals from other provinces which had characterised the previous year's trade. Ceylon maintained her position as the best customer, taking some 100,000 tons. Wheat had also a splendid year, the exports being the largest since 1904-05 and the imports recorded in the previous year automatically ceasing. The United Kingdom took 83 per cent. of the shipments. Other cereals also did well. The exports of pulses aggregated 873,404 cwts. with the declared value of Rs. 39·43 lakhs.

Oilseeds.

428. The year 1908-09 had been one of disappointing crops, and export figures had touched the lowest level. The year under review recovered lost ground; and the quantity shipped aggregated 4,400,091 cwts. with a declared value of Rs. 346·63 lakhs. Linseed is the premier seed of the export trade; and with fair crops in the districts whence the supply is derived shipments amounted to 2,887,009 cwts., against 2,179,078 cwts. in 1908-09, an increase of 32·6 per cent. Rapeseed stands next in rank of importance, and the exports of the year totalled 1,068,461 cwts., this being the highest figure yet touched. Increases also appear in the other oilseeds.

Cotton, raw.

429. The share of Calcutta in the total exports of cotton, raw, from India was on the average of five years ending 1908-09, 5·6 per cent. and in 1909-10 it was 4·3 per cent. only. Both Bengal and the United Provinces which supply Calcutta with the commodity had favourable crops; as a result shipments are marked by a recovery of 38·3 per cent. in volume and 65 per cent. in value, the statistics being 386,932 cwts., valued at Rs. 122 lakhs. Indian cotton shared in the rise of prices in the international markets.

Coal and coke.

430. Of the total of 758,828 tons of Indian coal exported from India in 1909-10, Calcutta was the port of shipment for the entire quantity except 461 tons. The year's exports were 32·7 per cent. larger than those of 1908-09, but it is necessary to record that this result was largely brought about by the unexpected demand from Australia owing to the coal strike in that country. Some 22 shipments were made between December and February and this number would have been improved upon had more enterprise been shown and more care been taken in the selection of the coal sent out in the earlier consignments. Ceylon and the Straits Settlements also took bigger quantities than in 1908-09; but Indian coal has not much prospect of recovering the

ground lost to Natal and Japanese coal in the former colony and to Japanese and Australian coal in the latter. The total amount of coal raised in India during the year was 11,870,114 tons, the share of Bengal being 10,660,811 tons. The average price of Jheriah coal during the year was Rs. 3-0-10 per ton at pit's mouth.

431. The year 1909-10 like its predecessor was unseasonable for the indigo crop. A shortage in the winter rain affected sowings, while excessive showers in August affected the outturn. Fine grades were very scarce and the crop was on the whole below standard. The export figures of 1909-10, viz., 11,221 cwts., valued at Rs. 24·42 lakhs, are consequently the lowest on record. Indigo.

432. The exports of raw silk were slightly better than those of 1908-09, but the year was one of low prices, as a result a serious decline in value is revealed. The statistics for 1909-10 are 1,126,445 lbs., valued at Rs. 27·71 lakhs, and for 1908-09 are 1,012,878 lbs., valued at Rs. 37·99 lakhs. As usual France took the largest share, viz., 77 per cent. Silk, raw.

433. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal importing countries in the export trade in Calcutta :— Export trade of Calcutta with foreign countries.

	1908-09.	1909-10.	1908-09.	1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.	Percentage.	
Total exports ...	66,24,27,310	69,88,70,014	100	100
United Kingdom ...	16,84,62,794	17,68,72,933	25·4	25·3
United States of America	11,06,90,701	11,47,52,588	16·7	16·4
Germany	7,47,64,886	6,75,27,309	11·3	9·7
China	5,60,21,136	6,24,05,055	8·4	8·9
France	3,19,28,597	3,24,59,226	4·8	4·6
South America ...	3,09,60,523	2,69,32,717	4·7	3·9
Austria-Hungary ...	2,08,56,923	1,81,59,338	3·1	2·6
Italy	1,69,55,092	1,52,40,709	2·6	2·2

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan for 1909-10.]

434. The total import and export trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan was 314 lakhs, as compared with the total of 379 lakhs in the preceding year, the decrease being 65 lakhs, or 17 per cent. General.

435. The total trade with Nepal fell from 336 lakhs in 1908-09 to 282 lakhs. The imports did not maintain the expansion noticed last year. Animals decreased from 512,859 to 337,400 head, the decrease being 175,459 in number and 16 lakhs in value. Grain and pulse showed a decrease of 21,000 maunds in quantity and 28·45 lakhs in value. There was a very heavy drop (21·15 lakhs) in the imports of rice and paddy. Hides and skins advanced from 12·22 lakhs to 12·48 lakhs, while raw jute imports fell from 21 lakhs to 19 lakhs. The exports fell off from 108 lakhs to 100 lakhs. Cotton piece-goods, foreign and Indian, improved by 1·37 lakhs. The year's transactions in grain and pulse were larger than the previous year's by 2·49 lakhs, or 43 per cent. Other rain crops showed a decline of Rs. 78,000. In the department of metals, brass and copper decreased by 4·64 lakhs. Tobacco is marked by a considerable decline of 2 lakhs. Nepal.

436. The total trade with Tibet showed a considerable decline. Consignments of skins of sheep and of goats dropped heavily. Raw wool constitutes the backbone of the Tibetan trade with Bengal; its imports were valued at Rs. 4 lakhs, and represented about 70 per cent. of the value of the entire trade. Two other articles peculiar to Tibetan trade with India are musk and yaks' tails, both of which show decreases. The staple export is cotton piece-goods, the trade in which was valued at Rs. 1·57 lakhs. Earthenware and porcelain contracted from Rs. 1,27,838 to Rs. 28,852. The trade in corals also decreased, the value being Rs. 8,153 in place of Rs. 1,41,026 in 1908-09, while precious stones increased from Rs. 27,080 to Rs. 47,312. Indian twist and yarn, showed a decline of 94 per cent., while foreign cotton piece-goods, increased by about 50 per cent. Tibet.

Sikkim.

437. Imports into Bengal from this state remained almost steady at Rs. 9·3 lakhs. The chief articles were grain and pulse, spices and animals. Exports to Sikkim from Bengal showed an increase of Rs. 1·62 lakhs, or 21 per cent., due mainly to the rise in the trade in cotton piece-goods, grain, metals and tobacco.

Bhutan.

438. The total trade declined by Rs. 7,871, or 33 per cent. Living animals, cotton piece-goods and metals were the principal articles of commerce. There was very little trade in corals in the year under report, though in the year 1907-08, Bhutan received this article to the value of Rs. 11,505.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1909-10.]

[Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India for 1909-10.]

Coasting trade.

439. The total value of the trade amounted to Rs. 18,96·69 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 22,24·72 lakhs in 1908-09, the decrease being one of 14·7 per cent. Imports are marked by a decline from Rs. 13·41 lakhs to Rs. 10·04 lakhs (or by 25·1 per cent.), while exports increased from Rs. 883·64 lakhs to Rs. 892·68 lakhs (or 1 per cent). The decline occurred mainly in Indian merchandise, fluctuations in foreign merchandise being of an unimportant character. Some 97 per cent. of the total trade belonged to Calcutta. The decrease recorded in the imports was brought about mainly by the small receipts of paddy and rice from Burma. The other items marked by important decreases are groundnuts, mainly from Madras, cotton twist and yarn from Bombay, and lac-stick from Burma. The net improvement in exports resulted from the increases recorded in shipments of rice to Madras and of wheat flour and unmanufactured tobacco to Burma. Jute manufactures were stationary, the decline in gunny-bags being made good by an increase in gunny cloth. Coal, the principal article in the export trade, declined by 16 per cent.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal in 1909-10. Tables I and II.]

Rail and river-borne trade.

440. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table:—

Year.		Exports from Bengal including Calcutta to other provinces.	Imports into Bengal including Calcutta from other provinces.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.
1908-09	Mds.	88,974,091	66,777,682	32,725,762	139,044,932
	Rs.	40,76,53,513	48,76,99,609	27,91,88,110	36,42,23,919
1909-10	Mds.	104,425,075	71,176,957	30,849,828	177,481,512
	Rs.	40,51,56,271	49,87,42,670	25,95,22,336	36,77,76,986

Imports.

441. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal including Calcutta (Rs. 49 crores), 54 per cent. represent the trade from Eastern Bengal and Assam, 29 per cent. from the United Provinces, 5 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 3 per cent. from the Punjab, and the balance 9 per cent. from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 40 crores) 45 per cent. went to Eastern Bengal and Assam, 33 per cent. to the United Provinces, 8 per cent. to the Punjab, 5 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remaining 9 per cent. to other provinces. The principal articles of import into Bengal including Calcutta were from Eastern Bengal and Assam, raw jute (Rs. 15 crores), tea (Rs. 6·5 crores) and hides and skins (Rs. 1 crore); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, wheat (Rs. 2·7 crores), opium (Rs. 1·87 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 1·84 crores), food-grains excluding wheat (Rs. 1·6 crores), cotton, raw (Rs. 1 crore), hides and skins (Rs. 1 crore), lac (Rs. 63 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton, raw (Rs. 67 lakhs), wheat (Rs. 28

lakhs), oilseeds (Rs. 17 lakhs), gram and pulse (Rs. 16 lakhs); and, from the Punjab, hides and skins (Rs. 40 lakhs), raw cotton (Rs. 18 lakhs) and wheat (Rs. 7 lakhs).

442. The exports from Bengal including Calcutta to Eastern Bengal and Assam comprise mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 6·3 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 2·3 crores), oils (Rs. 1·5 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·4 crores), spices (Rs. 88 lakhs), rice, husked and unhusked (Rs. 84 lakhs) and salt (Rs. 54 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh cotton manufactures (Rs. 5·9 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·6 crores), rice, husked and unhusked (Rs. 1·1 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·1 crores), lac (Rs. 99 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 74 lakhs) and railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 63 lakhs); to the Panjab cotton manufactures (Rs. 1·1 crores), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 57 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 31 lakhs) and rice (Rs. 24 lakhs); while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consists principally of iron and steel (Rs. 53 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 24 lakhs), gunny-bags and cloth Rs. 21 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 12 lakhs), silk, raw (Rs. 11 lakhs) and railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 10 lakhs). Exports.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Buildings.

[The details of outlay by the Public Works Department will be found in the Finance Accounts, issued annually by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bengal.]

443. The total outlay of the year on works amounted to Rs. 1,07,77,726, of which Rs. 63,74,059 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 44,03,667 by local authorities. Of the Rs. 63,74,059 expended by the Public Works Department, Rs. 12,05,401 were spent on imperial works, Rs. 49,40,767 on provincial works and Rs. 2,27,891, on local and contribution works. Expenditure.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

444. A third additional pontoon with gangways was constructed in the salt golahs at Sulkea at a total cost of Rs. 15,761. Civil Works. Salt.

445. Additions and alterations were being made to the Assistant Opium Agent's residence at Sewan, while the residence for the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Tehta, Gaya, was completed. The house known as the "Hoshiarbagh Kothi" at Gulzarbagh was purchased from the Tikari Raj for a residence for the saw mill engineer and his assistant at a cost of Rs. 19,102. Opium.

446. A third storey over the existing mint engineer's quarters was constructed to provide sufficient accommodation for the staff, as a portion of the land on which the old engineers' quarters stood was transferred to the Port Commissioners. Mint.

447. Electric fans were installed in the office of the Comptroller of the Post Office in Calcutta at a cost of Rs. 16,945. The Post and Telegraph Office building at Ranchi was dismantled, but as the medical authorities objected to the construction of a new building on the site of the old one, the work was stopped. The combined Post and Telegraph office at Dhanbaid was completed. Post and Telegraph Offices.

448. The new Imperial Secretariat Building in Council House Street for the accommodation of the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of India was under construction. The ground and first and second floors, and a portion of the brickwork in the superstructure of the third floor, were completed. Secretariat Buildings.

449. In order to improve the insanitary condition of the existing latrines on the roof of the Treasury Buildings, Calcutta, the latrines were remodelled at a cost of Rs. 14,054. Treasury Buildings.

450. As the present accommodation in the Paper Currency Office, Calcutta, was found insufficient, a new building for the accommodation of the record vault, cancelled note vault and the stamping and counting offices, was under construction. The recess in the north-west corner of the shroffing room at No. 26 Currency Office.

Mangoe Lane, was converted into a steel-lined vault, and a new vault with steel plates was under construction.

"Hastings' House."

451. Walls were constructed on the south and east sides of "Hastings" House" compound at Alipore at a cost of Rs. 12,014.

Surveyor-General's Office.

452. The extension of the theodolite room and of the porch, at the Mathematical Instrument Office, Survey of India, Calcutta, was completed at a cost of Rs. 34,728.

Agricultural.

453 Materials were collected for the construction of a refrigerating machine in the building of Phipps' Laboratory at Pusa and of an apparatus for watering the lawns and flower-beds in the compound and as a protection against fire.

Mines.

454. Materials were collected for the office and quarters for the Inspector of Mines and staff at Asansol.

Nepal Residency.

455. The second storey of the billiard-room and the verandah on the east side of the Residency building in Nepal, were nearly completed.

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Magistrates' and Collectors' Courts.

456. Additions and alterations were made to the Purnea Collectorate, a new Court-house for the Deputy Commissioner at Angul was under construction, and a settlement office was built at Banki.

Judges' Courts.

457. The additional accommodation, which is being provided for the Civil Court and offices at Jessore, was nearly completed. Land was acquired for a new Civil Court at Cuttack, and the old buildings situated on and acquired with the land were dismantled and the site cleared. Additions and alterations were made to the Judge's Court at Krishnagar at a cost of Rs. 28,639. The construction of iron record racks in the District Judge's Court at Midnapore was completed.

Munsifs' Courts.

458. The court building for the Sub-Judge and Munsifs at Chapra, which was destroyed by fire in March 1909, was rebuilt. Land was acquired for the Munsif's Court at Jajpur, materials were collected, and the building was in progress. A treble munsifi at Kushtea was constructed at a cost of Rs. 42,672, and additions and alterations were made to the Munsif's Court at Meherpur. The double munsifi at Madhubani and the single munsifi at Sewan were completed.

Munsifs' residences.

459. Two Munsifs' quarters were constructed at Baraset, and one each at Jhenida, Magura and Tamluk completed. Another set at Tamluk, and one each at Narail and Danton were nearly completed.

Subdivisional Courts.

460. The additions and alterations to the Subdivisional Court at Phulbani and the extension of the Subdivisional Court at Arraria were completed. Additions and alterations were being made to the Subdivisional Court building at Godda in the Sonthal Parganas district.

Subdivisional residences.

461. The re-construction of the main building and servants' quarters of the Subdivisional officer's residence at Magura, and the extension of the Subdivisional officer's quarters at Rampur Hât were nearly completed. Quarters were built for the Subdivisional officer at Sambalpur, and the residence for the Tahsildar at Khurda was completed.

Circuit Houses.

462. Improvements were being carried out at the old Circuit House at Bandel (Hooghly).

Excise buildings.

463. Liquor depôts and *ganja golas* were constructed at several stations in the Bhagalpur division, and also a liquor godown at Kalimpong.

Residences for the Local Government.

464. Furniture costing Rs. 14,283 was supplied for the new council chamber at Belvedere. The guest house at Government House, Darjeeling, was completed and installation of electric lights in the building was in progress.

Residences for Government officials.

465. A two-storied residence with out-offices was constructed for the Assistant Principal, Bengal Veterinary College, Belgachia, at a cost of Rs. 17,745. Quarters were built for the Settlement Officer at Contai. The construction of the Deputy Commissioner's residence at Sambalpur, commenced last year, was still in progress at the end of the year. Thorough repairs and additions and alterations were executed to the house known as the "Manager's house" belonging to the Tikari Raj at Gaya for the residence of the District Judge.

466. Additions and alterations were carried out to the existing iron racks in the book depôt on the ground-floor of the Octagon of Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 12,681, and an additional building was constructed for the secretariat press in the compound of Block No. 1 of Writers' Buildings at a cost of Rs. 21,228. Secretariat Offices.

467. At the new Presidency Jail, Alipur, certain buildings including staff quarters were completed and the jail was occupied on the 1st January 1910. The outer walls of the District Jail at Chapra were nearly rebuilt. Radical improvements were effected in the sleeping wards of the central jail at Midnapore. A double-storied barrack was completed in the Khulna Jail. At Cuttack the district jail was enlarged by the inclusion of the abandoned lunatic asylum. Certain additions and improvements were carried out in the central jail, Hazaribagh. The new hospital in the Purnea Jail, which was in course of construction in the previous year, was completed at a cost of Rs. 27,489. Improvements were made in the water-supply in the female ward of the Ranchi Jail. A new sub-jail at Madhubani and the extension of the Diamond Harbour Sub-jail were nearly completed. Jails.

468. To provide more accommodation for the police, the outpost at Tittaghur was converted into a police station and some additional land was acquired for the purpose. A new police building was constructed at Lillooah at a cost of Rs. 24,412. Additions and alterations were in progress to the building known as the Duff College, Calcutta, to make it suitable for the head-quarters of the Northern Police Division. An office was built at Bankipore for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Bihar Range. A constables' barrack was erected at the Sadar thana at Midnapore. At Puri, the police hospital in the reserve police lines was completed. The acquisition of the bungalows of Messrs. Leslie, Cloete and Burton in connection with the Police Training College at Dorunda, Ranchi, was completed, and special repairs were in progress to Mr. Burton's bungalow, which was purchased for the residence of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Burdwan Range. Improvements to the sadar police station at Bhagalpur were nearly finished. Police.

469. The extension of the Chemical Laboratory, Presidency College, Calcutta, was almost finished during the year. An additional boarding house for the Calcutta Madrasah was under construction. With a view to improve the surroundings of the Muzaffarpur Zilla School the adjoining land were acquired. At the Patna College, the Minto Hindu Hostel with Superintendent's quarters, the hostel for the Muhammadan Students with Superintendent's quarters, and the Principal's and Professors' quarters were completed. The hostel in connection with the Midnapore College was completed, with the exception of some petty works. A boarding house and the head master's quarters at the zilla school, Puri, were completed, and a boarding house for the Muhammadan and Hindu students of the Bankura Zilla Shool was under construction. The hostel and teachers' quarters at the guru training school at Bagdogra, in the Darjeeling district, were entirely finished. Special repairs were executed to the High English School at Sambalpur; the new Zilla School at Chaibassa was almost finished; and the work of additions and alterations to the Government Industrial School, Ranchi, was started in the latter part of the year. The water-supply scheme in connection with the Reformatory School, Hazaribagh, was completed with the exception of the well which was held over pending consideration of a larger scheme. The chapel for the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong, was completed. Educational.

470. At the Medical College, Calcutta, the electric lift was completed, additions and alterations were made to the new nurses' quarters, and the surgical block was almost finished; the construction of the fourth or administrative block was temporarily stopped. The Civil Surgeon's residence at Howrah was remodelled. Two new small-pox wards, one for males and one for females, were constructed at the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, at a total cost of Rs. 63,818, and quarters for the nurses were also erected at a cost of Rs. 27,528. A covered passage between the surgical ward and the operation room in the General Hospital, Cuttack, was under construction. The remodelling of the Pilgrim Hospital at Puri was still in progress when the year expired. Medical.

Miscellaneous.

471. The construction of fire-proof record racks in the record-room of the Bengal Drawing Office in Lower Circular Road, Calcutta, was in progress.

Agricultural.

472. The Agricultural College buildings at Sabour (Bhagalpur), with hostels and the Principal's and European and Indian Professors' quarters and other subsidiary buildings, were completed; an installation of gas for the College buildings was provided, and the internal gas and water fittings were in progress. The Agricultural Farm buildings, with overseer's and clerks' quarters at Chinsurah, were completed.

Contribution works.

473. A new Law College was constructed at the back of the Senate House, Calcutta. Covered passages to the several buildings were provided for the use of the nurses at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta. The new hospital and dispensary building at Kurseong was completed at a cost of Rs. 56,359. The work of additions and alterations to the pauper ward in the Victoria Memorial Hospital at Darjeeling was nearly completed.

Monuments and Antiquities.

474. The erection of a monument at Plassey was completed at a cost of Rs. 20,497.

Communications.

Midnapore.

475. Great damage was caused to the Raniganj road and the Orissa Trunk road by the floods of the Cossye river on 30th August 1909, but repairs were effected promptly and traffic was not interrupted.

Manbhum.

476. The platform of the end span on the east approach to the bridge over the Subarnarekha at Toolin on the Ranchi-Purulia road was renewed.

Special repairs were executed to the Grand Trunk Road between miles 191 and 198, to afford facility to the local coal industry.

Hazaribagh.

477. The road from Bagodar to Saraiya, 8 miles in length, was taken over from the District Board of Hazaribagh for maintenance by the Public Works Department, and 1¼ miles of it were re-metalled.

Ranchi.

478. 6¼ miles of the Ranchi-Daltonganj road in the Ranchi district, were remetalled.

Singhbhum.

479. Two sections of the Ranchi-Chaibassa road, Badgaon to Hessadi, and Tebo to Nakti, were regraded.

Shahabad.

480. The remodelling of the Moothani Road Chowki on the 375th mile of the Grand Trunk Road was almost completed.

Gaya.

481. Messrs. Martin & Co. of Calcutta, were permitted to use the Grand Trunk Road between Dhobi and Sherghati for their proposed light railway from Gaya to Sherghati, subject, among other conditions, to the payment of a track rent of Rs. 50 per annum, and of half the cost of all repairs to bridges and culverts, the execution of which will remain in the hands of the Public Works Department.

Patna.

482. The Road between Bankipore and Dinapore, 8 miles and 3,433 feet in length, was transferred with effect from 1st April 1909 to the District Board of Patna and an annual grant of Rs. 8,000 will be made for its upkeep.

Darjeeling.

483. The unfinished portions of the new High Level Tista Valley road were completed. Improvements were made in the Inspection Bungalow at Siliguri.

Balasore.

484. The re-construction of the bridge over the Guri Khal Nala on the Orissa Trunk Road, was commenced.

Angul.

485. Additional culverts were constructed on the 3rd section of the Cuttack-Angul road. A first class Inspection Bungalow at Phulbani was completed. An Inspection Bungalow at Bamur, on the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, 2nd section, was completed and another at Nakchi was in course of construction.

Sambalpur.

486. Owing to the straitened condition of provincial finances work on the Sambalpur-Cuttack road, Khalsa section, and the Sambalpur-Sonepur road from Sambalpur to the boundary of the Sonepur State was suspended. The second section, about 7 miles, of the Bargarh-Bolangir road from Barpali to the Sonepur border, was almost completed.

ARBORICULTURE.

Darjeeling.

487. A number of new trees were planted on the road sides in the Western Circle and in the Darjeeling district.

488. Along the Orissa Trunk Road from Salindi to Kharsua, operations were confined to the maintenance of trees already planted. Balasore.

489. An avenue two miles in length was laid out on the section of the road from Kharsua to Mahanadi. The nursery at Chowdar was abandoned in favour of a new one at Barchana. Trees supplied from the local nurseries were planted along the road from Cuttack to Puri, on the Ganjam road, and on the second section of the Pilgrim Road. A nursery was opened at Kuntal at the 17th mile of the first section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, and trees planted at miles 5, 6 and 15 to 17. The second section of the road was planted with trees obtained from the nursery at Barkera. Cuttack.

490. Trees obtained from the nursery at Angul were planted along the Angul-Tikarpara road. Angul.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

491. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, were authorised to grant special rebates to large consumers of electricity who have not less than 10 kilowatts installed either in one motor or as an aggregate of motors of not less than 1 kilowatt each. Calcutta.

492. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, was permitted to acquire land on the river side at Cossipore at its own expense for a site for an improved generating station, to meet the increasing public demands for electrical energy. 24-Parganas.

493. The Government of Bengal assented to the transfer, from 26th April 1909, to the Coal Fields Power Syndicate, Limited, of the Coal Fields Electric License of 1907, granted to Messrs. Hoare, Miller & Co., of Calcutta, for the supply of electrical energy to the public and for electric traction in portions of the Burdwan and Manbhum districts. That license was revoked, and, in November 1909, a new license containing a revised purchase clause was granted to the Bengal Coal Fields Power Company, Limited. Burdwan and Manbhum.

494. The Public Works Department Fire appliances at Darjeeling were completely brought into line with those of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade. Bazar sheds at Matigara and Nuxalbari Hâts, and improvements to the water-supply at Kalimpong were completed as contribution works. Some of the boundary pillars between Nepal and British India along the bank of the Mechi river in the Darjeeling district having been washed away, the positions of the missing pillars were ordered to be fixed in consultation with the Survey Department, and materials for their construction were collected during the year. Darjeeling.

Railways.

495. No railways are exclusively under the direct administration of the Government of Bengal. The more important lines are under the control of the Railway Board. The following small lines of only local importance are subject to a certain measure of control by the Government of Bengal:— Administration.

	Gauge.	Miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2′-0″	51
(2) Deoghur Railway	3′-3⅜″	4·79
(3) Tarkeswar-Magra Railway	2′-6″	33·27
(4) Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2′-0″	43·87
(5) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway	2′-0″	19·75
(6) Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway	2′-6″	28·00
(7) Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway	2′-6″	51·12
Total		231·30

Additions to Mileage.

496. During the year the open mileage was increased as follows:—

	Miles.
Standard Gauge (5′-6″)	*Nil*
Metre Gauge (3′-3⅜″)	
Chapra-Mashrak	26·32
2′-6″ Gauge	
Silao extension of the Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway	9·50
Pattipukur extension of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway.	16·62

With these additions the open mileage in the province on 1st April 1910 was as follows:—

	Miles.
Standard Gauge	2,897·50
Metre ,,	1,154·12
2′-6″ ,,	271·33
2′-0″ ,,	114·62

Lines under construction.

497. The following lines were under construction at the close of the calendar year 1909:—

	Gauge.	Miles.
Eastern Bengal State Railway—		
Lower Ganges Bridge	5′-6″	7·38
Bengal-Nagpur Railway—		
Bhojudih-Parthadihi	5′-6″	2·28
Khanoodih-Katras	5′-6″	1·89
Kalimati-Gurmaishini	5′-6″	40·10
East Indian Railway—		
Barharwa-Katwa	5′-6″	99·14
Bhagalpur-Bausi	5′-6″	31·04
Ghatline to Dhulian	5′-6″	1·06
Hooghly-Katwa	5′-6″	65·20
Parthadihi-Pradhankhanta	5′-6″	9·00
Tirhoot State Railway—		
Bhagalpur Kutchery-Bhagalpur	3′-3⅜″	1·07
Pratabganj-Bhimnagar	3′-3⅜″	13·44
Bengal and North-Western Railway—		
Gandak Bridge at Bagaha and approaches	3′-3⅜″	5.43
Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway—		
Dehri-Akbarpur	2′-6″	23·83

Lines sanctioned for construction.

498. The following lines were sanctioned for construction:—

	Gauge.	Miles.
Tirhoot State Railway—		
Samastipur-Roserah	3′-3⅜″	17·20
Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway—		
Arrah-Sasaram	2′-6″	60·75

Surveys completed.

499. The following surveys were completed during the year:—

(1) by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the Bokaro-Ramgarh Railway project on the 5′-6″ gauge from Mohuda to the left bank of the Chootya Nala, a distance of 42 miles.

(2) by the Bengal and North-Western Railway for an extension on the metre gauge from Thawe station to Tiwaripatti (Domritolla), an approximate distance of 24 miles.

(3) by the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company for three extensions on the 2′-0″ gauge, viz. :—

	Miles.
(*a*) from Siliguri to Teesta bridge	29·50
(*b*) from Siliguri *viâ* Naxalbari to Kissenganj	69
(*c*) from Darjeeling to Lebong	5

500. The following surveys were in progress during the year :— Surveys in progress.

(1) by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company—

	Miles.
for a line from Ranchi *viâ* Lohardaga to Palkote on the 2′-6″ gauge, distance	88

(2) by the Bengal-Dooars Railway Company :—

(*a*) for a line from Bagrakote to Sivoke, 3′-3⅜″ gauge, distance approximately	7
(*b*) from Sivoke up the Teesta Valley to Kalimpong, 2′-6″ gauge, distance	17

501. The following surveys were authorised to be undertaken :— Surveys authorised.

(1) by the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Company from Bechupur (Moghalserai), a station on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, to the Ramgarh-Bokharo Coalfields, 5′-6″ gauge, distance 200 miles, of which about 145 miles are in the province of Bengal.

(2) by the Bengal and North-Western Railway for the realignment of the Bengal and North-Western Railway main line near Farhada between the stations of Santa and Banwarchuk.

502. An application from Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co., for a concession for the construction under the District Board's guarantee of a light railway on the 2′-6″ gauge from Jessore to Jhenidah with a branch to Kotechandpur, distance 36·8 miles, in the district of Jessore, was approved. Other projects.

503. In consideration of possible future developments in the size of steamers, the Government of Bengal asked that a clear headway of 42 feet over highest flood level should be provided at the proposed lower Ganges Bridge at Sara, but the Government of India finally decided that 40 feet would be sufficient. An indenture was executed between the Government of Bengal and the Dehri-Rhotas Tramway Company conceding to the company the free use of land at Dehri-on-Sone adjoining the eastern bank of the main western canal for the purpose of constructing their light railway on condition that Government can resume possession after one year's notice if the land is required for a canal. For the safety of the Bhagirathi embankment which protects the Eastern Bengal State Railway between Jiagunge and Bhagwangola at Kalukhali breach, an estimate was sanctioned for strengthening and raising the embankment to a height of 10 feet at the cost of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. A proposal was made by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company to take over and work the Eastern Bengal State Railway in combination with their own and the Tirhoot State Railway; but the Secretary of State for India decided that the line should continue, for the present, to be worked by state agency. The Indian Railways Act except section 135 was extended to the Basirhat-Chingrihatta (Hossainabad) and Belliaghatta Bridge-Pattipookur extensions of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway. Miscellaneous important matters.

504. The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway maintains its record as the line earning the highest profits in the province of Bengal, but all the light railways are being worked successfully, and yield a fair return to their shareholders and to the District Boards. Working of light railways.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part III—Commercial Services.]

Capital and Revenue Account.

505. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1909-10 in the field of irrigation and navigation are exhibited in the following statements. Works to afford protection from flood or to facilitate drainage are not noticed in this chapter :—

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1909-10.	Expenditure to end of 1909-10.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1910.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Protective Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	56,35,728	9,15,688	51,80,215	4,55,513
Indirect „ ...	1,30,475	23,429	1,31,201	(—)726
Total ...	57,66,203	9,39,117	53,11,416	4,54,787
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	6,29,07,232	63,897	6,28,52,663	54,569
Indirect „ ...	17,68,097	2,944	17,66,137	1,960
Total ...	6,46,75,329	66,841	6,46,18,800	56,529
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,67,84,359	8,04,819	1,55,56,107	12,28,252
Indirect „ ...	2,66,016	16,393	2,88,376	(—)22,360
Total ...	1,70,50,375	8,21,212	1,58,44,483	12,05,892

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct charges.	Indirect charges.	Total working expenses.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works*	26,92,809	14,52,762	1,16,733	15,69,495	11,23,314
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.	4,52,694	3,30,155	5,651	3,35,806	1,16,888
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.	38,902	1,32,718	9,622	1,42,340	(—)1,03,438
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.	33,227	35,473	...	35,473†	(—)2,246

* Inclusive of the Dhaka canal.

† Exclusive of Rs. 1,480 spent on the survey of Protective Irrigation Works in the district of Darbhanga.

506. The classification of the works dealt with in this review is as follows:—

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation Works.

Protective Irrigation Works.—The only works comprised in this class are the Tribeni and Dhaka canals, which were sanctioned in the year 1900-01. The Tribeni canal is still under construction, while the Dhaka canal is practically complete. They are purely irrigation works. A revised estimate for the Tribeni canal, amounting to Rs. 51,35,328, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1905, and a second revised estimate is now under preparation. The revised estimate amounting to Rs. 6,09,191 for the Dhaka canal, was sanctioned by the Government of India in 1905. The construction estimate of this canal has been closed from 31st March 1908. The schedule of sanctioned works which were either incomplete or not begun on the 1st April 1908 has been sanctioned by the Government of India. The date for the completion of these works which was originally fixed at 31st March 1910 has been extended to 31st March 1912. The revenue account of the canal has been opened from the year 1906-07 and is shown under 42—Provincial; but all capital expenditure will be charged to head 35.

Major Works.—In these are included the Orissa, Midnapore, Sone and Hijili tidal canals. The Hijili tidal canal is for navigation only, while the other three canals provide for both irrigation and navigation. The original capital account of these canals has been closed and all present capital outlay is charged against head "43—Minor Works and Navigation." The revenue account is shown under head "42—Major Works and Working Expenses."

Minor Works and Navigation.—(I) The works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern canals, the Madaripur Bhil Route and the Orissa Coast canal for navigation and the Saran canals for irrigation. (II) The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighatta and Buxi khal, and they are used for navigation only. (III) The works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept include the Eden canal, which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation and the Madhuban (Teur) canal used for irrigation only. Under (II) is also included the Magra Hât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which is being carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII (B.C.) of 1895

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary which is given for convenience by circles of superintendence:—

ORISSA CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Orissa Canals.

Capital Account.

507. The expenditure (direct charges) debited to the capital account of the Orissa canals during the year was Rs. 58,856. The total capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,61,73,532.

During the year the following works were in progress or completed:—

On the high level canal the construction of permanent outlets was completed and work on one distributary and two minor distributaries was in progress.

On the Pattamundi canal progress was made with the raising of the flood banks to protect the canal from the floods of Brahmini river.

On the Kendrapara canal the extension of two distributaries was commenced.

On the Machgong canal three minor distributaries were nearly completed and three permanent outlets constructed.

On the Taldanda canal the construction of one minor and extension of one distributary were completed and the extension of three others was

in progress. The remodelling of the first reach of the canal was completed and the canal opened for traffic on 30th May 1909.

Length of Canals. 508. During the year 16¾ miles of distributaries and minor channels were added.

rainfall. 509. The average rainfall at the 13 recording stations on the Orissa canals was 67·95 inches, against an average of 57·46 inches for the last ten years. This was very well distributed in the *kharif* season and was sufficient to give a good crop on the unirrigated areas.

Financial Results. 510. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Orissa canals during the year were Rs. 5,26,470 and Rs. 4,80,587 respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 45,883, against Rs. 60,754 in the preceding year, the decrease in net revenue being due to the increased working expenses.

Hijili Tidal Canal. 511. There was no addition to the capital outlay during the year, which now stands at Rs. 25,51,641 (direct charges). The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 63,742 and Rs. 57,940 respectively, against Rs. 46,055 and Rs. 48,799 respectively in 1908-09. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 5,802, against a deficit of Rs. 2,744 in the preceding year. The increase in revenue is due to the good rice crop of the year.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Orissa Coast Canal. 512. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounts to Rs. 43,72,462. Range IVB and the Bhograi lock were closed to traffic from 1st February 1910 to the end of the year,—the former for silt clearance and the latter for special repairs. The other ranges remained open throughout the year. A sum of Rs. 8,956 was spent during the year on silt clearance. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 26,129 and Rs. 69,886 respectively, against Rs. 20,859 and Rs. 1,05,123 respectively in the preceding year. The increase in receipts, which are principally from toll earnings, was mainly due to the good rice crop of the year. The working expenses diminished very largely as the heavy silt clearing of Range V which had been in progress for some time was completed during the previous year.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital Account. 513. The outlay during the year of Rs. 1,707 (direct charges) chargeable to capital was chiefly on extensions and improvements to distributaries which were completed during the year. The total capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 83,10,156.

Floods. 514. The highest flood in the Cossye river during the year was on the 15th September, when the gauge at Mohunpur read 93·70 feet, which is only 0·80 foot below the record.

Rainfall. 515. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was as follows:—

Station.	1909-10.	Average for 10 previous years.
	Inches.	Inches.
Midnapore	68·85	59·60
Panchkura	61·65	57·88

Irrigation. 516. The area irrigated from the canal was 70·438 acres, against 63·824 acres irrigated in the previous year. There was considerable demand for canal water towards the latter part of the *kharif* season owing to insufficient rain. Difficulty was experienced in complying with the demand for the leased areas under Midnapore weir owing to the small flow of water in the Cossye river.

The demand of Rs. 1,36,095 for water-rates which fell due during 1909 was practically fully realized before the close of the year. It was considerably in excess of that of the previous year owing to the water-rates being raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per acre.

517. Owing to the good rice crop the receipts from navigation were about 20 per cent. higher than those of the previous year. Navigation receipts.

518. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore canal amounted to Rs. 2,01,774 and Rs. 2,32,949 respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 31,175 as compared with a deficit of Rs. 45,289 in the previous year. Financial Results.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

519. Rs. 4,75,259 debitable to the capital account (direct charges) were expended during the year principally in constructing the new Ultadanga-Bamanghatta (Kristopur) canal and also on the bridge over the new cut which was practically completed during the year. Capital Account.

520. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 3,62,111 as compared with Rs. 4,10,149 in the preceding year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 3,80,758 and Rs. 2,37,443 respectively, against Rs. 4,31,655 and Rs. 2,93,525 respectively in 1908-09. The falling off in receipts may be attributed mainly to a large number of boats being damaged by the cyclonic storm in October. Navigation receipts.

521. Rs. 3,29,560 debitable to capital outlay were expended during the year in deepening by dredging the channel through the *bhil*. Half of this amount is payable by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The total capital outlay to the end of 1909-10 stands at Rs. 20,54,769, of which Rs. 17,53,072 is debited to this Government and the balance to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were respectively Rs. 45,032 and Rs. 22,093. The net revenue was therefore Rs. 22,939, of which Rs. 3,440 represents the share credited to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The net revenue during 1909-10 was Rs. 15,212. Madaripur Bhil route.

522. No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 34,402 and Rs. 1,41,940 respectively against Rs. 28,759 and Rs. 1,22,231 respectively in the preceding year. The slight increase in receipts may be attributed to the improvement in the navigable channels and to better crops. The number of boats using these rivers during the year was 17,213, against 15,667 in the previous year. Nadia Rivers.

523. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 4,500 and Rs. 400, against Rs. 3,469 and Rs. 8,753 respectively in the previous year. Gaighatta and Buxi khal.

524. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 25,711 and Rs. 26,673, against Rs. 19,720 and Rs. 16,030 respectively in the year 1908-09. The increase in receipts is due to the rate for *kharif* leases for a term of years being raised from 5 annas to 8 annas per bigha. The area irrigated during the year was 18,910 acres, against 20,768 acres in the preceding year. Eden Canal.

SONE CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Sone Canals.

525. The expenditure of Rs. 3,334 (direct charges) debited to the capital account of the Sone canals during the year was chiefly on collection of materials for the construction of the Dehora sub-distributary from the Mali distributary of the Patna canal. The total capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1909-10 was Rs. 2,58,17,334. Capital account.

526. The average rainfall of the 12 stations in the three divisions was 41·95 as compared with the average of 38·41 inches for the last ten years. The rainfall during the year was abundant and the crops were generally good. Rainfall.

Irrigation.

527. The area irrigated under long-term leases during the year was 401,257 acres, against 400,616 acres in the previous year. Owing to seasonable rainfall during the year the area irrigated in the *rabi* season was less than that of the preceding year. The demand for water-rates which fell due during the 1909 was Rs. 18,05,222 and this was fully realised before the close of the year.

Navigation receipts.

528. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 17,456, against Rs. 12,585 in the previous year. This increase may be attributed to the good crops of the year.

Financial results.

529. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 18,87,279 and Rs. 7,59,096 respectively, against Rs. 18,62,129 and Rs. 7,50,672 respectively in the preceding year.

Closure of canals.

530. During the year under review the main western canal from the Buxar canal to the end was closed to navigation from the 10th May to 25th June 1909, both days inclusive, owing to the small supply of water in the river Sone.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

Protective Irrigation Works.

Tribeni and Dhaka Canals.

531. The expenditure (direct charges) on the Tribeni canal was Rs. 8,89,978 and on the Dhaka canal Rs. 25,710. The progress made with the works up to 31st March 1910 is as follows:—

Tribeni Canal.

The excavation of the canal was completed from miles 0 to 47 except five river crossings, while from miles 47 to 61 about 75 per cent. of the work done. All masonry work in the main canal between miles 0 and 37 was completed except for certain small additions and alterations. The major works from miles 37 to 57 were well in hand, all being half or more finished except two, of which the masonry of the foundations was being laid. All road bridges were completed, and out of three drainage syphons, one was completed, and the foundations of the other two were being constructed. Of the 16 distributaries that take off in miles 0 to 33, 12 were practically completed, and on the other four about half the work had been done.

Dhaka Canal.

With the exception of village channels, permanent outlets and a few minor works, the whole project is now complete. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal were Rs. 13,544 and Rs. 38,923 respectively, against Rs. 27,149 and Rs. 21,766 in the preceding year, the result being a deficit of Rs. 25,379, against a net revenue of Rs. 5,383 during 1908-09. The decrease in receipts was due to there being no demand for irrigation till towards the close of the *kharif* season. The increase in working expenses is due to an adjustment of charges for establishment.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Saran Canals.

532. Some irrigation was carried out from these canals, but outside the control of the Public Works Department. The canals were opened and water supplied at the request of the managers of the Hathwa Raj and of some Indigo concerns who paid for the cost of making the necessary dams.

Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.

Teur (Madhuban) Canal.

533. The only work of this class is the Teur canal, which is 6·25 miles in length with one distributary (Lukhowara) 6·50 miles long. This canal was maintained in good order at a total cost of Rs. 8,800 against Rs. 8,399 last year. The total area irrigated during the year, inclusive of the zirat lands of the zamindar of Madhuban, which are irrigated free of charge, was 1,979 acres, against 5,945 acres in the preceding year. On account of the favourable rainfall there was no demand for canal water before the middle of September.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1909-10.]

534. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for establishment and tools and plant) during the year amounted to Rs. 7,72,827, against an average of Rs. 8,93,679 for the four previous years. **Expenditure.**

535. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government is 2,156 miles 978 feet, and these protect an area of 8,658,700 acres. During the year under review 3,884 feet of new embankment were constructed in the Orissa circle. In the South-Western circle the Schedule D embankments of the Nadia Rivers division were all resurveyed and measured, and it was found that the length, owing chiefly to errors in previous totals, was greater than last year's return by 10 miles 1,498 feet. There was no change in the Gandak and Northern circles. These embankments are generally effective against ordinary high floods, but in the South-Western circle a few are liable to be overtopped and breached in exceptional circumstances. **Length of embankments and areas protected.**

536. There were no bad floods during 1909 except in the South-Western circle, where the floods in the Cossye at Midnapore and in the Selye at the end of August rose nine inches above the highest previously recorded. As there were unusual floods in the Darkeshwar and the Damodar at the same time the basin into which all these rivers spill was unable to contain them, and the Chetua circuit embankment, the Mohankhally circuit embankment and the upper portion of the left embankment of the Rupnarain were all over-topped and breached in places and the crops suffered much damage. In the Damodar river there were four high floods, of which that on the 31st August equalled the highest on record, that of 1907 and the embankment at Naskarpur was breached. A high tidal flood in the Bidyadhari river caused breaches in the Bantra retired line then under construction, and some damage to the Canning Railway. The flood in the Hooghly on the 1st September was the highest on record. In the Orissa circle the floods were not severe and no serious damage, except two minor breaches, was done to any of the embankments. In the Gandak circle the floods were moderately high in all the rivers except the Ganges, but no serious damage was done. Owing to the unusually high floods in the Midnapore district, two hundred and forty-four breaches occurred in the embankments of this circle. In the Orissa circle there were only three minor breaches and none in the Gandak and Northern circles. **Floods.**

537. In the Orissa circle the survey of the Subarnarekha river was completed, and preliminary investigations were made in order to fix the height and section of embankments in the Bichitrapur estate. In the South-Western circle a survey was made of the Chetua circuit and adjacent rivers in connection with the scheme for lessening the damage done by the floods in the Selye and Damodar rivers, gauges were erected for observation of the floods in the spill area of the Damodar in the Gadghat subdivision, and all the Schedule D embankments in the Cossye division were surveyed. Surveys in connection with the following drainage schemes were also made: the drainage of the Arapanch basin into the Peali river; the drainage of the Hara basin; the drainage of the Ampta basin and excavation of the Purana khal; the drainage of the town of Berhampore and the improvement of the Gobra nala. **Surveys and investigations.**

538. The outlay under this head during the year was Rs. 42,097. In the Orissa circle three permanent escapes were completed in the Dya left embankment, the raising of the crest of the sea embankment No. 7 B in the Balasore division was half completed and four embankment sluices were completed during the year and twelve others were in process of construction. In the South-Western circle the sluice and outfall channel at Sridharpur in the first mile of the Panchthupi left embankment was completed. In the Northern circle the remodelling of the Gupta embankment was practically completed during the year. **Original works.**

539. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 3,98,923, or about the normal and but for the numerous breaches in the South-Western circle, the total expenditure would have been less than usual. The amount spent on retired lines was Rs. 70,659, against an average of Rs. 67,803 for the four years previous. This excess is chiefly due to heavy expenditure in the **Ordinary repairs and retired lines.**

South-Western and Orissa circles. No retired lines were constructed in the Northern circle.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B. C.) of 1880.

540. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Burrajolla drainage works, in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year at a cost of Rs. 29,043 as compared with an average of Rs. 12,819 for the five preceding years. This heavy increase was due to silt clearance in the Rajapur and Baidyabati inner channels, the rebuilding of the out-houses at Seijberriah and the bridge over the Burrajolla channel at Ghoraghatta.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII (B. C.) of 1895.

541. The only work which has as yet been carried on under this act is the Magra Hât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district, the object of which is to drain swamps in an area of 290 square miles round Magra Hât in centre of the tract enclosed by the 24-Parganas embankments. This work is estimated to cost Rs. 20,98,898, and the expenditure on it up to date amounts to Rs. 16,74,505, of which Rs. 2,68,474 were spent during the year. The working of the Diamond Harbour sluice, which was completed during the year and opened in June, has been most successful, and an area of about one hundred square miles of what was formerly swamp land has now been drained and excellent paddy crops obtained. Before the construction of the sluice only a nominal crop was obtained, but now there is said to be an outturn of ten maunds of paddy per bigha. At Rs. 2 per maund, the value of this crop would amount to Rs. 38,40,000, so that the value to the tenantry of the crops on the reclaimed land in only one year is about twice the cost of the scheme.

Drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Embankment Act, II (B. C.) of 1882.

542. In the Orissa Circle the Argowal drainage khal with outfall and sluice was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,43,697. A large number of sluices in the Schedule D embankments are maintained under the provisions of this act at the cost of the estates benefited.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

543. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1909-10 as compared with those of 1908-09:— Imperial receipts in 1909-10 and 1908-09.

Major Heads.	1908-09.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	80,97,547	73,82,124	...	7,15,423
II.—Opium	6,44,38,031	6,90,53,551	46,15,520	...
III.—Salt	1,12,46,304	1,14,59,850	2,13,546	...
IV.—Stamps	77,99,919	78,06,214	6,295	...
V.—Excise	85,00,502	83,96,279	...	1,04,223
VII.—Customs	2,03,49,447	2,29,22,808	25,73,361	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	28,21,483	27,93,073	...	28,410
IX.—Forest	5,92,422	5,40,320	...	52,102
XI.—Tributes	34,175	52,250	18,075	...
XII.—Interest	12,66,389	11,96,743	...	69,646
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	1,61,158	1,67,733	6,575	...
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	...	2,221	2,221	...
XXV.—Miscellaneous	72,978	41,344	...	31,634
Total ...	12,53,80,355	13,18,14,510	74,35,593	10,01,438

The variations shown in the above table were mainly attributable to the following causes:—*Land Revenue.*—The decrease was due to special assignments made to the Provincial Revenues: *Opium.*—Higher prices were obtained at the sales of provision opium, owing to depletion of the stocks and the rise in the price of the drug in China, which resulted in keen competition to secure the limited number of chests offered for sale in Calcutta: *Salt.*—Larger clearances were made of duty-paid salt than in the previous year: *Stamps.*—The sale of court-fee stamps rose owing to an increase in litigation: *Excise*—The decrease was mainly due to the abolition of outstills on the introduction of the contract distillery system in Bihar and to the diminished consumption of opium, as the result of restricting the supplies of the drug to vendors in certain districts: *Customs.*—An increased import duty was realised on piece-goods owing to the revival of trade in cotton manufactures and to larger imports of sugar, silver bullion, gold coin, spirits, liquors, drugs; there was also a larger export of rice in consequence of the good harvest: *Assessed Taxes.*—The decrease is attributed to the depression of business among the commercial classes in Calcutta: *Forests.*—The receipts in the Sunderbans Division declined owing to the effect of the cyclone of October 1909: *Tributes.*—The tributes of certain states in Sambalpur were enhanced: *Interest.*—The interest on loans to the Calcutta Port Trust was not paid within the year and certain loans to the Calcutta Corporation were repaid: *Superannuation.*—Larger receipts were realised from the Orphanganj market at Kidderpore: *Stationery and Printing.*—The value of stationery recovered from District Funds was adjusted for the first time in the accounts: *Miscellaneous.*—The receipts on account of the percentage chargeable on European stores for Provincial and Local Funds and premia on bills were smaller.

Imperial expenditure in 1909-10 and 1908-09.

544. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1909-10 as compared with that of 1908-09:—

Major Heads.	1908-09.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	6,64,698	6,76,484	11,786	...
2.—Assignments and Compensations ...	1,17,048	1,20,091	3,043	...
3.—Land Revenue	11,17,096	11,23,728	6,632	...
4.—Opium	1,84,76,627	1,65,90,470	...	18,86,157
5.—Salt	3,65,620	3,34,600	...	31,020
6.—Stamps	2,31,194	2,15,654	...	15,540
7.—Excise	3,92,769	4,35,664	42,895	...
9.—Customs	10,62,246	11,02,780	40,534	...
10.—Assessed Taxes	80,001	77,857	...	2,144
11.—Forest	2,91,990	2,95,550	3,560	...
14.—Interest on other obligations ...	20,112	24,781	4,669	...
18.—General Administration	2,95,771	3,21,378	25,607	...
23.—Ecclesiastical	2,15,390	2,24,161	8,771	...
25.—Political	14,461	8,482	...	5,979
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	36,650	33,315	...	3,335
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions ...	9,40,002	8,89,046	...	50,956
28.—Civil Furlough	68	517	449	...
29.—Superannuation	37,914	40,563	2,649	...
32.—Miscellaneous	22,169	17,937	...	4,232
33.—Famine Relief	7,83,297	5,26,597	...	2,56,700
45.—Civil Works	5,000	5,000	...	...
Total ...	2,51,70,123	2,30,64,655	1,50,595	22,56,063

The principal fluctuations are explained as follows:—*Refunds and Drawbacks.*—Refunds of customs duties increased: *Opium.*—Payments to cultivators were smaller owing to the smaller outturn: *Salt.*—The expenditure under establishment and contingencies decreased: *Stamps.*—Less discount was paid on the sale of general stamps and the issues of stamp paper from the central stores were smaller: *Excise.*—The construction of distillery warehouses in Bihar and expenditure under temporary establishment resulted in an increase: *Customs.*—The preventive establishment was reorganized: *Interest on other obligations.*—A General Provident Fund was instituted with effect from August 1909: *General Administration.*—The establishment of the Accountant-General, Bengal, was revised, and the removal of his office to the Military Accounts buildings involved expenditure: *Ecclesiastical.*—A contribution was made towards the repair of the Roman Catholic Church at Patna: *Territorial and Political Pensions.*—The arrear pension of Kulson Nisa Begum of the Nizamut family was drawn in 1908-09, thus increasing the expenditure of that year: *Famine Relief.*—The relief operations undertaken were on a smaller scale than in the preceding year.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Customs Administration Report, 1909-10, also called the Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal, 1909-10, Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue from Customs.

545. The gross revenue from Customs (inclusive of 4·58 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported at Calcutta) was Rs. 3,41,89,000, against 3,16,23,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 5,34,000 against Rs. 5,30,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 3,36,55,000, representing an increase of 8 per cent. on the previous year's figures.

The enhanced taxation imposed on liquors, tobacco, silver and petroleum by the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, VIII of 1910, which was finally passed on 5th March 1910 with retrospective effect from the date of its introduction, brought in an additional revenue of Rs. 2·66 lakhs during that month.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 528·66 lakhs: of this amount salt (including the inland collections) amounted to Rs. 117·45 lakhs. The collections on account of other articles rose from Rs. 191·13 lakhs to Rs. 211·21 lakhs. This increase was chiefly due to larger receipts in the case of cotton goods (Rs. 13·53 lakhs), silver (Rs. 3·76 lakhs), and sugar (Rs. 3·40 lakhs). The export duty collections rose from 9·35 to 13·23 lakhs. The bulk of the refunds granted were under the head of arms (41 per cent.) and salt (19 per cent.). Drawbacks were chiefly on jewellery.

Net income.

546. The net income of the Custom House amounted to Rs. 3,25,43,240, against Rs. 2,99,48,825 in 1908-09, representing an increase of nearly 8·6 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports (Cuttack, Puri and Balasore) was Rs. 1,73,962, against Rs. 47,533 in the previous year.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

547. There were 669 cases of infringement of the Sea Customs law and rules, against 424 in the previous year. Of these 496 represented under-valuation and the other mis-declarations, involving payment of extra duty amounting to Rs. 23,303 and penalties of Rs. 5,065. These cases do not include 294 instances in which minor errors of under-valuation were corrected by the appraisers without further action being taken. In three undervaluation cases the goods were taken over on behalf of Government and disposed of at a profit. In six cases obscene goods were confiscated.

Merchandise Marks Act.

548. The number of cases dealt with under the Merchandise Marks Act was 680, against 376 in the previous year. Of these 607 related to offences of false trade descriptions.

The aggregate amount of penalties levied was Rs. 11,152.

Administration.

549. The schemes for the reorganization of the appraising and preventive establishments of the Custom House were sanctioned and introduced from the 12th September 1909. Since the close of the year, it has been decided by Government to retain the experimental executive audit department as part of the permanent organisation. The principal changes of procedure were the introduction of the credit system for payment of duty on salt with effect from January 1910, and the abolition of duplicate shipping bills for non-dutiable cargo exported to foreign ports.

OPIUM.

[Report on the Administration of the Opium Department, 1908-09. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Settlements.

550. During the opium year (November 1908 to October 1909) the area settled amounted to 729,053 bighas, viz., 217,626 bighas in the Bihar agency and 511,427 bighas in the Benares agency, as against 236,228 and 609,063 bighas in the respective agencies in the previous year. In the Bihar agency the area actually cultivated was 165,720 bighas, as compared with 201,980 bighas in 1907-08. The area sown in the Benares agency was 448,706 bighas, or 62,721 bighas (12·26 per cent.) less than the area stipulated.

Climatic conditions.

551. In the Bihar agency the deficiency of the monsoon and want of rain in the sowing season caused the sowings to be late, and they were unsuccessful in many places. Where, however, the sowings were successful, the seed germinated freely, and a light fall of rain in January and February largely benefited the crop. In the Benares agency, except in the north-east, generally good rain fell in July and August, but very little fell after the first week of September anywhere. The south-east of the agency received some rain early in October and slight showers fell in the west in January and February.

Outturn.

552. The outturn of opium in the two agencies taken together decreased by 9,530 maunds, or by 13·3 per cent. in the year under review, as compared with that of the year 1907-08. This decrease, which occurred in both agencies, was due to the shrinkage in cultivation—the outturn to the bigha cultivated being considerably better in both agencies than in the preceding

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year. The general average produce per bigha in the Bihar agency was 3 seers 10 chitaks and 1 kacha in the year under review, against 3 seers 1 chitak and 2 kachas in the preceding year. The average yield per bigha in the Benares agency was 4 seers and 5 chitaks, against 3 seers and 10 chitaks in the preceding year.

Consistence. 553. The average consistence of the opium produced in both the agencies was a little lower than that of the previous year, viz., 75·68° in the Bihar agency and 71·73° in the Benares agency, against 76·34° and 73·07° respectively in the preceding year. The consistence would have been higher but for the cool wet weather experienced in April.

Advances to cultivators. 554. In the Bihar agency the value of opium delivered by cultivators was Rs. 38,97,356, but the advances made amounted to Rs. 41,55,751, or Rs. 2,58,395 in excess of the value of opium received. Of this excess Rs. 1,95,481 were recovered, leaving a balance of Rs. 62,914, as compared with Rs. 10,500 in the previous year.

In Benares the total advances made on account of opium, leaf and trash, amounted to Rs. 1,09,73,984 and the final payments to Rs. 7,74,823, making a total of Rs. 1,17,48.807. The balance, as ascertained after weighments, amounted to Rs. 26,586, out of which Rs. 21,037 have since been adjusted by recoveries from the cultivators. The net balance outstanding on 1st November 1909 was Rs. 5,549, of which Rs. 5,458 are for opium and Rs. 91 for leaf.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report, 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Credit system of payment of duty on salt. 555. Detailed instructions for the issue of salt on credit in accordance with the rules issued by Government on the subject, were published by the Board of Revenue for the guidance of officers engaged in the administration of the Salt Department in Bengal and for general information. The salt merchants in Calcutta have recently done more to take advantage of the system which, it is hoped, will gain in popularity as its advantages are better understood.

Imports. 556. The imports of salt show a decrease of about $22\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs of maunds, as compared with the previous year. No explanation of this decrease has been furnished; but as the stock in hand at the beginning of April 1909 was about $15\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs of maunds in excess of the stock on the 1st April 1908, it seems likely that the merchants reduced their imports till stocks should be diminished. In consequence, the stock at the end of the year is nearly $10\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of maunds less than at the close of 1908-09. As compared with the previous year, imports of Aden and Salif salt fell off considerably owing to the loss of popularity of Aden salt and to difficulty in securing freight for Salif salt.

Consumption. 557. The quantity of salt consumed in the province during the year under review is estimated to have amounted to 81,72,823 maunds, as against 85,06,448 maunds in the previous year.

Prices. 558. There was a decrease of 2 annas 1 pie in the average wholesale price per maund of salt, and the average retail price for the province fell from 10 pies a seer in 1908-09 to $9\frac{1}{2}$ pies a seer. Exclusive of duty, the average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds as sold from the ship's side in Calcutta was Rs. 37-11-3·25, against Rs. 50-0-2 in 1908-09. The fall in price is ascribed to keenness of competition among the different varieties of salt.

Prosecutions. 559. Except in Puri, there was a large decrease in the number of seizures of illicit salt and in the number of prosecutions under the Salt Laws during the year, as compared with the previous year, in which there was an increase in the breaches of these laws which was attributed to failure of crops and scarcity. The larger number of cases in Puri and in parts of Cuttack, as compared with other parts of the province, is ascribed by the Commissioner of Salt to the comparative poverty of the people in Puri and Cuttack and the greater ease with which illicit salt can be produced there. In the 24-Parganas, the number of such cases was only 6, against 61 in the previous year; the decrease is attibuted to the increasing number of shops where salt is sold as well as to favourable harvests.

560. The financial results of the year, as compared with those of 1908-09, show an increase of over 2 lakhs, or 1·9 per cent. in receipts, and a decrease of Rs. 67,197, or 13·4 per cent. in expenditure; the net revenue exceeding that of the previous year by 2·6 per cent. Financial results.

561. The quantity of salt educed in the manufacture or refinement of saltpetre during the year and removed on payment of duty from the refineries in Bengal was 21,510 maunds, against 24,102 maunds in 1908-09. Trade in Saltpetre salt.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, for 1909-10: Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

562. The most important administrative changes which took place during the year were the extension of the contract system of supplying spirits to the districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea, the enhancement of the duty on foreign liquor, both imported and locally manufactured, the enhancement of the duty on *bhang* in 15 districts, the restriction of the supply of opium to shops in Calcutta and the adjoining districts of the 24-Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly, and the imposition of excise restrictions on eucaine, beta eucaine, beta eucaine lactate and holocaine. Measures were also taken to restrict the home-brewing of, and for the better regulation of the sale of *pachwai*. The rate of duty on country spirit was raised during the year in four districts or parts of districts. The duty on country spirit has also been raised from the current year in the towns of Cuttack, Balasore, Puri, Monghyr and Jamalpur, and in the urban tracts of the Shahabad district. After many years of discussion, the Bengal Excise Bill passed through the Bengal Council in July 1909, and the new law came into force from the 1st December last. Rules and notifications having the force of law under the new act were published in the same month, and a new excise manual has been prepared and is about to issue. Administrative changes.

563. Local committees were appointed in Calcutta and in 27 municipal towns with a population of 20,000 or more, to consider and advise the Collectors with regard to the number and sites of liquor shops to be licensed for the current year. As in the preceding year, the committees were composed of the Collector as Chairman, with the Superintendent of Police, the Chairman of the municipality, and, in towns where the Collector is the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman of the municipality, and one municipal commissioner nominated by the municipal commissioners of each ward in which liquor shops were to be licensed as members. In twenty districts country spirit shops and *tari* shops were abolished or removed to other sites in deference to local opinion. The Commissioner of Tirhut reports that in all the districts of that division the Collectors endeavoured to meet the wishes of local bodies and of those interested in the work of the Excise Department. In Calcutta, a considerable number of country spirit shops was abolished in 1908 and 1909 on the recommendations of the local committees, and the Calcutta committee of February last took exception only to one country spirit shop which was abolished, and to two *tari* shops of which the sites were changed. Local Advisory Committees.

564. The total receipts of the year, inclusive of advance collections, amounted to Rs. 168 lakhs against Rs. 170 lakhs in the preceding year. The receipts were made up of Rs. 76 lakhs in duty and Rs. 92 lakhs in license fees, against Rs. 73 lakhs and Rs. 97 lakhs, respectively, in the preceding year. Country spirit, *ganja* and opium account for 51 per cent., 18 per cent. and 15 per cent., respectively, of the total revenue of the year. The receipts from *ganja* show an increase of $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs or 6 per cent., while those from country spirit and opium show a decrease of $3\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs or 3·8 per cent. and 5·5 per cent., respectively. The incidence of taxation per proof gallon of spirit under the contract and central distillery systems taken together was Rs. 5·6 against Rs. 5·7 in the previous year and the average fee for each outstill was Rs. 2,048 against Rs. 2,148 in the preceding year. Revenue.

565. The total revenue from country spirit was Rs. 86,45,609 as compared with Rs. 89,85,534 in 1908-9. The consumption of contract and distillery spirits increased by 98,570 gallons L. P. The increase was nominal being more than accounted for by the conversion of outstills into distillery shops in the districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea. Country spirit.

The number of licenses for the sale of country spirit (contract, distillery and outstill liquor) fell from 2,997 to 2,942, or by 55. In Sambalpur, a gradual reduction is being made in the number of outstills, twenty-five being abolished during the year. In Calcutta, 16 country spirit shops were abolished during the last two years in accordance with the recommendation of the local excise committee which sat in 1907. In Gaya, eight and in Hazaribagh six outstills were closed and eight shops were abolished in Manbhum.

Imported liquors.

566. The trade in cheap imported liquors has increased. Under the new Excise Act, the system of compounding and bottling of foreign liquor has been brought under effective excise control, and a minimum strength of 25° U. P. has been fixed for sale of whisky, brandy and rum and of 35° U. P. in the case of gin. Arrangements have been sanctioned by Government to enable respectable chemists, doing wholesale business in the manufacture of drugs, medicines and chemicals to obtain, from a distillery or excise warehouse, rectified spirit intended for use in the manufacture of such articles on payment of duty at the reduced rate of Rs. 7-13 per gallon L. P. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of imported liquor was 591, against 589 in the previous year, while the receipts derived from license fees amounted to Rs. 3,20,060 against Rs. 2,94,058 in 1908-09, showing an increase of Rs. 26,002. The duty on all imported fermented liquors, spirits, wines, etc., was enhanced with effect from the 25th February 1910.

Tari.

567. In accordance with the suggestions of the Indian Excise Committee, a considerable reduction in the number of *tari* shops has been effected in the Bihar districts since 1905-06, and this has led, by increased competition, to a substantial increase of revenue in all these districts, except Bhagalpur, where there has been a decrease of Rs. 6,046. In this district a reduction of 105 shops was made during the year, of which 73 were situated in the town of Bhagalpur. The system of remitting *tari* fees by money orders is working successfully in the Bihar districts.

Pachwai.

568. The reduction of the number of *pachwai* shops, recommended by the Indian Excise Committee, was kept in view, and 50 such shops (viz., 34 in Burdwan, 7 in Birbhum and 9 in Bankura) were abolished during the year; in Birbhum 47 shops had been abolished in the preceding two years.

Ganja.

569. There was a general increase in the consumption of *ganja* which is attributed to the reduction in retail price consequent upon the lower wholesale price charged at Naugaon. The large increase in Calcutta (50 maunds) and the 24-Parganas (40 maunds) is attributed to a larger influx of up country labourers. To check the unlicensed possession and sale of *ganja*, the Board have lately approved the Excise Commissioner's proposal to reduce the limit of retail sale and possession of the drug from 20 to 5 *tolas*. The lower limit, which has long been in force in other provinces, will take effect in Bengal from the 1st April next.

Siddhi or *bhang.*

570. The consumption of *bhang* in the province showed a falling off of 289 maunds, the decrease in Calcutta alone being 128 maunds. The decrease is attributed mainly to the enhancement of the duty on *bhang* made from last year.

Opium.

571. The total consumption of opium during the year showed a decrease of 197½ maunds in the province. The decrease of 278 maunds in Calcutta and of 39 maunds in the 24-Parganas was the result of restricting supplies of opium, which was devised with a view to checking smuggling into Burma.

Cocaine.

572. The illicit traffic in cocaine has again increased. The Superintendent of Excise Revenue, Calcutta, states that supplies of the drug are now chiefly obtained through the agency of employés on board the vessels which trade between Calcutta and Europe. This evil can best be checked by special watchfulness on the part of the Customs preventive officers, to whom liberal rewards are given for detection of such offences.

Excise offences.

573. A very striking increase is to be observed in the number of convictions for illicit distillation, which rose during the year from 599 to 690. Convictions were most numerous in the Sonthal Parganas, Midnapore and the 24-Parganas. The fall in the price of *mahua* and rice offered an incentive to illicit distillation. There was also greater activity on the part of the preventive staff. It is reported, however, that probably in Burdwan a large

number of offences under this head went undetected, owing to combination among the villagers and the connivance of landholders, and that in the Sonthal Parganas the village headmen, who also exercise police functions, were in many cases either implicated in, or were the actual perpetrators of, the offences.

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department in Bengal, 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*) —Finance and Revenue.]

574. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,51,40,941, against Rs. 1,51,29,226* in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 11,715. The increase of revenue which was obtained occurred entirely in court-fee stamps, and there was a decrease in the revenue collected under the Indian Stamp Act. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 4,01,686, the increase of 7·0 per cent., over the figures of 1908-09 being under "Refunds." Revenue under Stamp and Court-fees Acts.

* Exclusive of Rs. 4,70,000 on account of sale-proceeds of unified stamps credited to non-postal revenues.

575. The sale-proceeds from court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, rose from Rs. 1,00,51,023 to Rs. 1,03,51,335, that is, by Rs. 3,00,312. An increase of Rs. 64,974 in Cuttack is attributed chiefly to the increase in the number of rent-suits and to the fact that a large number of copies of documents were taken on account of the revision settlement operations going on in the district. The increases in other districts were chiefly due to a rise in the number and value of civil suits and to the institution of a greater number of cases under the Probate and Succession Acts. Court-fee Stamps.

576. There was a net decrease of Rs. 3,41,897 in the receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps, due to the decline in receipts under the heads of impressed stamps, impressed labels or special adhesive stamps, share transfer stamps and forms for cheques or receipts. In Calcutta there was a marked falling off of revenue amounting to Rs. 1,68,118, in comparison with the figures of the previous year. The decrease was most marked in the case of impressed labels or special adhesive stamps and share transfer stamps, and was due to the continued general depression in trade, particularly in jute, coal and cotton, which resulted in stagnation of business in the share market as well. Non-Judicial Stamps.

577. Two thousand nine-hundred and ninety-nine vendors were licensed to sell judicial and non-judicial stamps during the year, or one hundred and two more than in the previous year. Vendors.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-Tax Department, 1909-10: Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

578. The receipts, charges and net revenue under the head Income-tax were Rs. 55,96,282, Rs. 1,71,484 and Rs. 54,24,798 respectively. The net revenue showed a decrease of 1 per cent., as compared with an increase of 8·9 per cent. in 1908-09. Financial results.

579. The total collections on account of the tax during the year showed a decrease of Rs. 91,971, or 1·7 per cent., in comparison with the previous year, owing to the falling off under assessments on profits of companies and the incomes of the mercantile community amounting to Rs. 47,538 and Rs. 75,621, or 3·9 and 2·6 per cent., respectively. This result was chiefly due to collections in Calcutta under these heads having fallen from Rs. 11,85,136 and Rs 14,51,551 to Rs. 11,41,638 and Rs. 13,61,596, or 3·7 and 6·2 per cent., respectively. The depression in the coal and jute trades was responsible for the decline of the revenue from companies; and contraction of business in piece-goods, gunny, shellac and hides reduced the receipts from the incomes of those engaged in business. Collections.

580. The total number of assessees of the latter class, assessed on an income of Rs. 1,000 but less than Rs. 1,250, was 10,947, against 10,511 of the preceding year, showing an increase of 436, or 4·1 per cent. The final number of assessees for 1909-10 shows an increase of 1,398, or 3 per cent. and the final Assessments.

demand a decrease of Rs. 93,742, or 1·8 per cent. as compared with an increase of 1·9 and 10·2 per cent., respectively, during the previous year. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,34,107, or 3·7 per cent. in the final demand in Calcutta during the year,—a result which was mainly due to depression of business as explained in the above paragraph. Outside Calcutta the decrease in the final demand was largest in the district of Burdwan, where it fell from Rs. 1,49,706 in 1908-09 to Rs. 1,40,142 during the year under report owing partly to the transfer of certain assessments to Calcutta and partly to depression in the coal industry.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report.]

Provincial Finance.

Receipts and charges.

581. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1909-10 in comparison with those of 1908-09.

[*The figures are in thousands of rupees.*]

Receipts.	Actuals, 1908-09.	Actuals, 1909-10.	Expenditure.	Actuals, 1908-09.	Actuals, 1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	71,74	58,44	Direct demand on the revenues—		
			1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,31	1,43
			2. Assignments and Compensations ...	67	65
			3. Land Revenue ...	37,10	39,92
			6. Stamps	2,31	2,16
Principal Heads of Revenue—			7. Excise	3,93	4,86
			8. Provincial Rates ...	41	42
I.—Land Revenue—			10. Assessed Taxes ...	80	78
			11. Forests	2,92	2,96
Proper	1,62,80	1,65,98	12. Registration ...	8,15	7,79
Adjustments ...	48,96	65,01			
IV.—Stamps ...	78,00	78,06	Total ...	57,60	60,47
V.—Excise	85,01	83,96			
VI.—Provincial Rates ...	38,11	39,77	13. Interest on ordinary debt	4,92	6,28
VIII.—Assessed Taxes ...	28,21	27,93			
IX.—Forests	592	5,40	Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
X.—Registration ...	14,26	13,53	18. General Administration	19,07	18,99
			19. Law and Justice—		
Total ...	4,61,27	4,79,64	Courts of Law ...	83,76	82,75
			Jails	27,70	25,29
XII.—Interest ...	5,22	8,36	20. Police	80,26	81,55
			21. Ports and Pilotage ...	22,62	11,61
			22. Education	55,29	55,68
Receipts by Civil Department—			24. Medical	23,28	23,35
			25. Political	52	52
XVI.—Law and Justice—			26. Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	12,27	12,16
Courts of Law ...	6,40	6,01			
Jails	9,21	8,58	Total ...	8,24,77	8,11,90
XVII.—Police	1,81	1,90			
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage ...	15,56	15,22	Miscellaneous—		
XIX.—Education ...	7,18	5,86	29. Superannuation, &c. ...	26,27	27,13
XX.—Medical ...	2,82	2,91	30. Stationery and Printing	13,36	13,17
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	2,86	3,46	32. Miscellaneous ...	5,69	3,94
			Total ...	45,32	44,24
Total ...	45,84	43,94			
			Famine Relief and Insurance—		
			33. Famine Relief ...	1,57	2,57
Miscellaneous—			36. Reduction or avoidance of debt ...	2,60	2,60
			Railways (Revenue Account)—		
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	60	67	40. Subsidized Companies—Land, &c. ...	...	...
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	1,29	1,39	41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	...	...
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	6,35	10,13			
			Total ...	4,17	5,27
Total ...	8,24	12,19			

[*The figures are in thousands of rupees*]

RECEIPTS.	Actuals, 1908-09.	Actuals, 1909-10.	EXPENDITURE.	Actuals, 1908-09.	Actuals, 1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Irrigation—			Irrigation—		
XXIX.—Major works (direct receipts) ...	26,34	27,02	42. Major Works— Working expenses ...	13,97	14,62
			Interest on debt ...	20,91	20,75
XXX.—Minor works and Navigation—			43. Minor works and Navigation—		
			By Public Works Department ...	20,32	21,50
By Public Works Department ...	5,79	5,64	By Civil Department ...	11	12
By Civil Department	1,02	1,02			
Total ...	33,15	33,68	Total ...	55,31	56,99
			Buildings and Roads—		
			45. Civil Works—		
			By Public Works Department ...	62,94	49,41
Buildings and Roads—			By Civil Department	17,30	16,76
XXXIII.—Civil Works—			Total ...	80,24	66,17
By Public Works Department ...	3,48	2,54	Total Charges ...	5,72,33	5,51,32
By Civil Department	1,83	1,74			
			Closing balance ...	58,44	89,21
Total ...	5,31	4,28			
Total Receipts ...	5,59,03	5,82,09	GRAND TOTAL ...	6,30 77	6,40,53
GRAND TOTAL ...	6,30,77	6,40,53	Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (—) ...	−1,330	+30,77

582. The increase under *Land Revenue* was due chiefly to better collections, consequent on the exceptionally good harvest of the year and partly to the sale of waste lands in the 24-Parganas and Burdwan. The increase under *Adjustments* was due to special assignments in aid of the provincial balance and for additional police reforms. The variations under the heads *Stamps*, *Excise*, *Assessed Taxes* and *Forests*, which are divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, have been explained above in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Provincial Rates* was mainly due to the realization of arrear demands and the fact that valuation in the Sonthal Parganas was made with retrospective effect, while the decrease under *Registration* was attributed to the smaller number of registrations effected owing to good harvests. The increase under *Interest* was due to larger recoveries of interest on the loan made to the Maharaja Sir Prodyot Kumar Tagore, and also from cultivators on account of advances made to them during times of scarcity. There were special receipts from sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property in the district of Bhagalpur in 1908-09, which account for the increased receipts under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* in that year. The decrease under *Jails* was due to smaller demands for manufactured articles from the different departments, especially for tents from the Ordnance and Police Departments. The increase under *Police* was due to larger recoveries for punitive police in the 24-Parganas, while the decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* was partly under pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta and partly under sale-proceeds of vessels. The pilot vessel *Fame*, was sold to the Port Commissioners in 1908-09. There were large refunds made by District Boards of the amounts placed at their disposal in previous years for the construction of Guru Training Schools in 1908-09, and hence the receipts in that year under *Education* were high. The increase under *Medical* was due to larger receipts from fees of the Calcutta Medical College, that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* to the opening of new agricultural farms and to larger receipts from the sale of quinine, consequent on the expansion of the pice packet system; that under *Superannuation* to larger contributions for pensions and gratuities; that under *Stationery and Printing* to larger receipts from sale of Indian Law Reports and Gazettes; and that under *Miscellaneous* was due to larger unclaimed deposits. The increase under *Irrigation—Major Works* was partly in water-rate collections and partly in navigation receipts, while the decrease under *Minor Works* was due to a falling off in the navigation receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, owing to obstructions caused by the cyclone of October 1909. The decrease

Variations.—(a) Receipts.

under *Civil Works by Public Works Department* was due to the fact that the Government share of the profits from the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for the year ending June 1909, and the rent from the Strand Bank, Calcutta, for the half-year ending 30th September 1909, were not received before the close of the year, while that under *Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers* was due to smaller receipts from tolls levied at ferries.

(b) Expenditure.

583. The increase under *Refunds and Drawbacks* was due chiefly to a special adjustment under Land Revenue refunds while that under *Land Revenue* was due to larger expenditure under the head of *Survey and Settlement* and also to initial expenditure in bringing the Survey and Settlement records in Orissa up to date. The variations under *Stamps and Excise*, which are divided equally between Provincial and Imperial, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The decrease under *Registration* was due to smaller expenditure on account of the grain allowance and establishment of Sub-Registrars. The increase under *Interest* is attributable to larger outstanding mean balances of provincial loans, while there was a decrease under *General Administration*, in the tour charges of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and under *Courts of Law* in expenditure on law officers and civil and sessions courts. The decrease under *Jails* was chiefly due to a smaller outlay in the purchase of raw materials and rations for prisoners owing to a drop in the price of food-stuffs, while the increase under *Police* is attributable to expenditure on reform and reorganization. The decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* was due to the fact that no new vessels were purchased, while the actuals of 1908-09 included Rs. 10,31,000 for the cost of the second pilot steamer *Lady Fraser*. The increase under *Education* was due to the appointment of additional Inspectors and larger expenditure on schools; that under *Medical* was due to larger expenditure on hospitals, dispensaries and medical schools and colleges; while the decrease under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was partly due to the abolition of the Gazetteer office from 1st September 1910, and partly to the smaller contributions to the Bihar Indigo Planters' Association. The increase under *Superannuation* was attributable to the annual growth of expenditure on retired allowances, while the decrease under *Stationery and Printing* was under stationery supplied from central stores; and that under *Miscellaneous* was due to smaller grants to charitable institutions and smaller expenditure in connection with the fisheries enquiry. The actuals of 1908-09 included a special refund of excess recoveries of advances to the Howrah and Rajapur drainage schemes. The increase under *Irrigation—Major Works* was partly under establishment and partly under tools and plant; and that under *Minor Works and Navigation* was due to larger expenditure on the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bheel route project. The decrease under *Civil Works by Public Works Department* was chiefly due to curtailment of expenditure on new works.

Local Finance.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1909-10.]

Balances.

584. The following table shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the province for the year 1909-10 :—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	21,86,273	74,93,722	96,79,995	72,80,294	23,99,701
District Road Funds	1,01,099	2,82,270	3,83,369	3,19,851	63,518
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	7,383	3,639	11,022	6,137	4,885
Barrackpore	16,691	50,455	61,146	45,314	15,832
Dum Dum	4,123	27,747	31,870	24,854	7,016
Dinapore	7,318	38,668	45,986	41,161	4,825
Doranda	1,720	1,711	3,431	2,292	1,139
Jalapahar	1,510	9,124	10,634	10,317	317
Lebong	1,312	7,637	8,949	8,568	381
Total ...	34,057	1,38,981	1,73,038	1,38,643	34,395

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cantonment Hospital Funds—					
Barrackpore	2	7,927	7,929	7,802	127
Dum Dum	2	1,051	1,053	1,048	5
Dinapore	2	3,739	3,741	3,741	.....
Jalapahar	62	750	812	687	125
Total ...	68	13,467	13,535	13,278	257
Town and Bazar Fund—					
Kolhan Market Fund ...	6,708	2,619	9,327	4,739	4,588
Police Funds—					
Village Chaukidari	1,01,568	3,97,200	4,98,758	3,98,080	1,00,678
Road Patrol	16,231	35,971	52,202	38,566	13,636
District Chaukidari Reward ...	73,314	47,238	1,20,552	38,056	82,496
Railway Police Clothing ...	2,644	.....	2,644	2,644	.....
Foundling Asylum	11	3,419	3,430	2,563	867
Fire Brigade	24,152	1,21,453	1,45,605	1,10,245	35,360
Total ...	2,17,910	6,05,281	8,23,191	5,90,154	2,33,037
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta) ...	—4,105	1,00,194	96,089	88,802	7,287
Orissa Ports	.....	15,678	15,678	15,441	237
Total ...	—4,105	1,15,872	1,11,767	1,04,243	7,524
Education Funds—					
Hindu College	2,709	4,752	7,461	6,628	833
Durga Charan Laha's ...	.....	2,551	2,551	2,551	.....
Jagriah Estate	517	600	1,117	616	501
Total ...	3,226	7,903	11,129	9,795	1,334
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrim Lodging House ...	76,813	83,603	1,60,416	93,403	67,013
Cuttack Annachatra	6,575	16,508	23,083	20,034	3,049
Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment ...	.....	5,631	5,631	5,476	155
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	2,333	1,119	3,451	14	3,437
Ram Lal Mukherjee's Endowment	2,077	2,180	4,257	381	3,876
Joy Gobind Laha's	6,718	4,389	11,107	.....	11,107
Imambara Hospital	1,963	9,080	11,043	9,975	1,068
Sambalpur Dispensary ...	9,606	10,687	20,293	15,773	4,520
Leper Asylum	314	375	689	468	221
Total ...	1,06,398	1,33,572	2,39,970	1,45,524	94,446
Public Works Funds—					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	21,397	1,05,953	1,27,350	1,07,316	20,034
Khond Mahal Road	1,175	6,618	7,793	7,687	106
Total ...	22,572	1,12,571	1,35,143	1,15,003	20,140
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection ...	32,755	76,993	1,09,748	56,349	53,399
Zoological Gardens	7,218	79,696	86,914	60,263	26,651
Moshin Endowment	10,784	1,01,353	1,12,137	95,127	17,010
Christian Burial Board ...	20,762	20,228	40,990	23,528	14,462
Muhammadan Burial Board ...	1,812	1,977	3,789	1,934	1,855
Total ...	73,331	2,80,247	3,53,578	2,40,201	1,13,377
Grand total ...	27,47,537	91,86,505	1,19,34,042	89,61,725	29,72,317

The District Chaukidari Reward Fund of Angul was opened during the year, while the Dispensary Funds at Bargarh and Jharsagra in Sambalpur were amalgamated with the local District Fund. The balance of the Railway Police Clothing Fund was transferred partly to Government and partly to the Railways from which it used to derive its income, while the balances of the Pilgrims' Lodging House Funds at Midnapore and Danton were transferred to Government.

Changes and grants.

585. The following grants were received by Cantonment Funds from the Military Department:— for roads, Dinapore Rs. 5,500; for conservancy, Dinapore Rs. 2,500, Leborg Rs. 2,680; for hospitals, Jalapahar Rs. 750; for market and cowshed, Dinapore Rs. 4,000; for establishing a dairy, Jalapahar, Rs. 3,500, and for other expenses, Jalapahar, Rs. 4,469.

The Hospital Port Dues Fund (Calcutta) opened the year with a deficit balance of Rs. 4,105, which was made good by the sale of Port Trust debentures to the extent of Rs. 25,000. The grants made by Government to the District Funds and District Road Funds during the year amounted to Rs. 15,97,445 and Rs. 1,33,726, respectively, including Rs. 8,52,790 granted in augmentation of the resources of those funds. The Chuni Lal Seal's Dispensary Fund received Rs. 3,885 in order to enable it to meet a deficit, the Khondmal Road Fund, Rs. 4,244, equivalent to the plough tax collections during 1908-09, the Muhammadan Burial Board Fund, Rs. 1,977, and the Durga Charan Laha's Fund, Rs. 777.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Road and Public Works Cess operations in Bengal for 1909-1910.]

Rate at which levied.

586. As in the previous year the cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna on each rupee of the annual value of lands or annual nett profits of mines and other immoveable properties.

Demand and collections.

587. The current land revenue demand was Rs. 2,85,70,033, or 20·8 of the valuation or gross rental which amounted to Rs. 13,70,23,491. The total cess demand (current and arrear) was Rs. 89,80,710 and the total collections amounted to Rs. 75,97,898, leaving an outstanding balance of Rs. 13,93,373. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 2,47,403 in the current demand, two-thirds of which occurred in Burdwan and Manbhum alone. The balance was made up by Murshidabad, Bhagalpur and the Southal Parganas. The remissions amounted to Rs. 65,424, the greater part of which was due to elimination of double assessments of rent-free lands and the revision of assessments of coal mines.

Working of the certificate procedure.

588. The number of certificates filed for the recovery of cess arrears was 73,233, as against 83,736 in the preceding year. The objections against certificates filed and decided numbered 4,623 and 4,547, as against 5,259 and 5,190 respectively in the previous year. In 969 cases, as against 1,380 of the previous year, the certificates were cancelled in consequence of such causes as the death or disappearance of judgment-debtors, double assessments, exemption of lands acquired by railways, non-registration of names, especially in the case of rent-free lands of which the cess is paid by the owners direct to the Collector, transfer of credits from one account to another, issue of erroneous certificates, errors in the land registration registers, and insufficient or incorrect particulars given in money-orders. The number of cases in which reductions were made in the certificate claim rose from 119 in 1908-09 to 130. Notices for the sale of the defaulter's moveable and immoveable properties induced payment in 34,102 and 8,964 cases, respectively. In 1,444 cases only (as against 1,779 of 1908-09) was recourse had to actual sales before the demands were satisfied. Of these sales, 703 were set aside under sections 20 and 21 of the act, as against 878 of the previous year.

Valuations and revaluations.

589. During the year valuations or revaluations, partial or complete, were confined to 15 out of the 30 districts to which the act is applicable.

Municipal Revenue

[*See* Chapter III—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1909. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population, and Public Health.]

590. The rainfall during the monsoon period began early, and was on the whole well distributed, being above the normal in all divisions except Chota Nagpur. The outturn of the crops generally was excellent, and a marked improvement in the general health of the people is chronicled. Climatic Conditions.

591. The number of births during the year under review showed an increase over the figure of the preceding year as well as over that of 1907, while the number of deaths was less than in either of the two preceding years, this being the first occasion since 1904 that these two phenomena have occurred together. The number of births registered in the province (exclusive of Angul) was 1,909,547, or 37·79 per mille of population, in comparison with 1,823,716, or 36·09 per mille, during 1908. The increase in the birth-rate is attributed to the improved condition of the people, and was shared by all divisions except Orissa, where the circumstances of the previous year had been particularly unfavourable, and their effect continued to be shown. The total number of deaths reported was 1,543,971, or 30·55 per mille, against 1,948,513, or 38·56 per mille, during the preceding year. In the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, this satisfactory decrease was due mainly to the reduced mortality from cholera, fever, dysentery and diarrhœa. In comparison with other provinces, Bengal stood third in the order of birth-rate in place of sixth during 1908, while it stood fifth in the order of death-rate as against third in the preceding year. The mortality recorded was the lowest since 1899. These results afford reason for congratulation. Within the province the most unhealthy division was that of Patna, which showed no increase in the birth-rate and stood first as regards the death-rate, though the latter figure was less than in 1908. Orissa, which returned the highest mortality last year, this year shows the lowest. Births and Deaths.

The experiment to test the accuracy of the registration of vital statistics in a portion of the Burdwan district came to a close in July 1909. Out of 6,890 deaths reported since 1906 in the area under observation, the causes of death in no less than 2,751 instances were found to have been wrongly reported, and almost half the deaths returned as due to "fever" were really due to other diseases. The numerical accuracy of registration was checked, as usual, by vaccination officers.

592. The mortality which in the preceding year was the highest ever recorded, fell in the year under report to almost normal proportions, the total number of deaths registered amounting to only 56,711, or 1·12 per mille, compared with 268,908, or 5·32 per mille, in the preceding year. The seasonable rainfall and the better agricultural outturn were responsible for this satisfactory result. Sixty-one registering circles were entirely free from the disease, as against six such areas only during 1908. The value of permanganate of potash for disinfecting wells used for drinking-water is beginning to be appreciated, and, in several cases, it is reported to have had an excellent effect in arresting the progress of the disease. Cholera.

593. The mortality from this disease showed a satisfactory decrease, the number of deaths being 1,056,237 as against 1,184,704 in 1908, and 1,145,195, the average of the five years 1904—1908. The reduction was shared by both rural and urban areas, but was especially noticeable in the former. The district most affected was Darbhanga, with 33·14 deaths per mille, and, as in the preceding year, a noticeable feature was the prominence of the comparatively dry districts among those returning a high death-rate. Fever.

Among towns, Sahibganj, in the Sonthal Parganas, again returned the highest death-rate. Anti-malarial operations were confined to the North Barrackpore municipality. The measures taken, so far as can be ascertained, were a success, though in the absence of scientific investigation this cannot be definitely asserted.

The enquiry undertaken by Captain Forster, I.M.S., in the preceding year, into the prevalence of malaria was continued on a smaller scale during the year under report. The principal conclusions at which Captain Forster arrived were that—

(*a*) there was a definite relationship between splenomegaly and the total mortality of the test areas;
(*b*) the total mortality in the test areas was largely the result of the operation of the causes of splenomegaly;
(*c*) measured by the endemic index, the test thanas were not strikingly malarious;
(*d*) there was not the relationship between spleen rates and endemic indices which might have been expected if the spleen rates were entirely due to malaria; and
(*e*) the spleen rates were not entirely due to malaria.

Nineteen Sub-Assistant Surgeons were deputed to malarious districts during the year, for the distribution of quinine. Their operations extended over 36 thanas in the districts of Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore, 24-Parganas, Purnea and Birbhum, and are reported to have been greatly appreciated. More effective measures were introduced for the sale of quinine in pice-packets, the size of which was also increased, and 25,514 packets were sold as against 13,307 in the previous year. In addition 4,818 phials, each containing three hundred $3\frac{1}{2}$ grain tablets, were sold.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa. 594. There was a large reduction in the mortality from this cause, the total number of deaths being 35,981, or ·71 per mille, as against 64,899, or 1·28 per mille in 1908. The same causes which led to a decrease in the mortality from cholera were operative in this instance also. As usual, the Orissa division was the chief sufferer from the disease, though in a greatly decreased ratio, the deaths being 2·82 per mille as against 6·68 per mille during the previous year.

Respiratory diseases. 595. The number of deaths registered in 1909 was 15,071, or practically the same as in 1908. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining reliable diagnoses in these cases, the figures are not reliable, and exact conclusions cannot be drawn.

Injury. 596. The deaths under this head exhibited an increase, and numbered 27,280 as compared with 24,896 in 1908. Deaths from snake-bite decreased from 8,789 in 1908 to 8,605 during the year under report. Seventy dozen permanganate lancets were distributed by Civil Surgeons to selected persons; and of the cases treated by this method (namely 59), it is claimed that 84·74 per cent. were successful. Three cases were treated successfully with antivenene.

Sanitary Improvements. 597. The gradual increase in expenditure by municipalities upon sanitary improvements, which was remarked last year, was maintained in 1908-09, the total expenditure on conservancy, drainage and water-supply being Rs. 21,97,380, or an increase of Rs. 2,48,557 over the figures for 1907-08. The $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakh grant made by the Government of India for sanitary improvements, was fully utilised in assisting local bodies to carry out schemes of drainage and water-supply. The appointment of an Inspector of septic tank installations has proved successful; and as a result of Major Clemesha's inspection of these installations, various improvements were effected.

The Sanitary Board. 598. During the year under report the estimates of various water-supply schemes were prepared by the Board and others were revised. The construction of water-works at Darjeeling, Monghyr and Bhagalpur was in progress. Eleven drainage schemes were under preparation during the year at Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jessore, Murshidabad, Berhampore, Hooghly-Chinsura, Azimganj, Bhadreswar, Chapra, Purulia and Ranchi, while the drainage schemes for Daltonganj, Monghyr and Serampore were further considered. The drainage schemes of Howrah, Puri, Barasat Basirhat, Baruipur, Budge-Budge, Barandgore, Bhatpara and Arrah were being carried out during the year.

Plague.

599. The mortality from plague decreased during the year under review, the total being the lowest on record since 1901. Only 11,779 deaths occurred, as against 15,948 in the preceding year. As in that year, 13 districts were free from the disease, which was not severely prevalent in any town or rural area. The mortality was nowhere above 5 per mille, except in Monghyr town. Only 704 anti-plague inoculations were performed during the year under report, of which more than half (363) were in Calcutta. This prophylactic is still looked upon with disfavour, though no cases of plague took place among those inoculated. Evacuation continued to be the most popular preventive measure. Disinfection with kerosene oil emulsion was carried out to some extent, but it is expensive and requires careful supervision. The efficacy of rat-destruction as a preventive measure is said to show signs of more general recognition, and it was carried on in Bihar on a considerable scale, noticeably in Monghyr and Saran. The work was generally done by organized rat-catching gangs. Plague.

600. The year under review shows a slight increase in mortality from plague in Calcutta as compared with the preceding year, the figures being 1,915 against 1,779, but the outbreak was milder than that of any other year, with this one exception, since the first appearance of the disease. The mortality from plague in Calcutta has fluctuated with alternate years. The "active" period of the disease was considerably later than in previous years, the outbreak having been at its height in the month of May (632). Plague in Calcutta.

601. The only plague observation camp, that existing at Siliguri, was abolished during the year. Plague observation camp.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1909: Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population, and Public Health.]

602. The only important administrative measure adopted during 1909 was the appointment of the Sub-Registrar of Raniganj to be a registering officer under the Indian Emigration Act, the object being to remove the inconvenience, experienced by the Emigration Agent for Trinidad, in taking intending emigrants recruited in Raniganj to Asansol for purposes of registration. A committee was appointed in London during the year under review to consider the general question of indentured emigration from India, the particular colonies to which it might be encouraged, and the advantages to be derived by India and the colonies. The committee's enquiries were not completed till after the close of the year. Administrative measures.

603. Five emigration agencies were at work during 1909 as compared with six in the preceding year. Four of these agencies worked on behalf of the British colonies and one for the Dutch colony of Surinam. The total number of emigrants requisitioned and despatched to these colonies amounted to 9,374 and 8,420 respectively, as against 9,276 and 10,160 in 1908, the largest numbers going to Demerara and Trinidad. The supply to Jamaica exceeded the demand by two: Trinidad and Surinam received the numbers intended for. In the case of Fiji, which requisitioned 1,551 labourers for the year, 1,901 were despatched on the 30th December 1908 and the rest in 1909. The number required by Demerara was not supplied in full, because the vessels engaged had not sufficient accommodation. No requisition was received from Natal. Depôts and despatch of emigrants.

604. The number of recruiters licensed was 571 (27% less than in 1908), and 27 licenses, as against 25 in the previous year, were cancelled. In all 12,691 emigrants, or 5,057 less than in the previous year, were registered in 1909. The decrease was attributed to the greater prosperity of the labouring classes on account of good harvests and the general fall in prices, and also to an increased demand for labour in the recruiting districts. As in previous years, the majority (85·23 per cent.) of the emigrants were recruited in the Health and physical fitness.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the districts of Fyzabad, Gonda, Cawnpore and Basti furnishing the largest numbers. Of the 12,793 emigrants admitted into the sub-depôts, 1,827 were rejected as unfit to emigrate, and of the rest 10,387 arrived at the Calcutta depôts. This number was subsequently reduced by rejections, releases and other causes to 8,809, of whom only 8,686, or 1,833 less than in 1908, were shipped in 1909 and 123 were left for subsequent despatch. Three hundred and sixteen return emigrants re-engaged, as against 383 in the previous year. The number of vessels employed to carry the emigrants was 11, and all were steamers. The total mortality on the voyages to the colonies was 43 as against 55 in 1908.

Sanitary arrangement in depôts.

605. The sanitary arrangements in the depôts were satisfactory. The depôt of the British Guiana and Natal agency was reconstructed according to a more modern design, while improvements were effected in the depôt of the agency for Trinidad, Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius. The depôt of the Surinam agency was also maintained in good order. The percentage of deaths to the depôt population was ·71 in the year under report, compared with ·55 in 1908; the increase was due to an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis, which alone caused 44 out of 81 deaths from all causes.

Returned emigrants and their savings.

606. Three thousand nine hundred and forty-one emigrants returned from the colonies during the year, bringing with them savings amounting to Rs. 6,91,121, the average for each emigrant being Rs. 175-5 as against Rs. 175 in the previous year. On the other hand, as many as 1,597, of whom 730 were children, brought back no savings at all. As in previous years, the emigrants in Natal sent the largest remittances by money-orders, the total amount so sent being Rs. 7,94,863. In Natal, emigrants are not allowed to settle or invest their money in the purchase of immoveable property after the period of their indenture. Time-expired coolies are either re-indentured or returned to India.

Inland Emigration.

[Reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901) for the year ending the 30th June 1910, submitted by the Superintendents of Emigration, Calcutta, the Sonthal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum and Singhbhum and Sambalpur.]

Administration.

607. During the year under review the question of reducing the area still open to recruitment, with special reference to the prohibition of recruitment by licensed contractors in the districts of the Presidency division, came under the consideration of Government. It was decided that the ultimate abolition of this system of recruitment was an ideal to be kept in view and to be attained gradually, but that it was not advisable, in view of the present condition of the tea industry, to take summary steps to dispense with the supply of labour by contractors. A notification was, however, issued closing the districts of Howrah and Sambalpur to recruitment under Chapter III, with effect from the 1st of August 1910.

Encouragement of direct recruitment.

608. While seeking to check abuses which arise only too easily in the conduct of recruiting operations by contractors in populous areas, Government has on the other hand done much to encourage direct recruitment by firms and associations of long standing and good reputation. An attempt has at the same time been made to fix the responsibility of the agents of such associations. By notification issued in November 1908, garden-sardars working under the control of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association, the Assam Labour Association and the Langai Valley Employers' Recruiting Association were authorized, on certain conditions, to forward unindentured emigrants without producing them before a Government registering officer. The local agents of the associations, however, were required to register correctly the names and particulars of such emigrants, and were also made wholly responsible for the work of the sardars, their licenses being rendered liable to cancellation for malpractices committed by their subordinates. It being subsequently brought to the notice of Government by the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association that this condition, by which Government had intended to emphasise the responsibility of the local agents for the acts of

sardars, was unduly severe, the condition was relaxed by Government, by the issue of a revised notification, under which a local agent's license would only be liable to cancellation for the fault of garden-sardars under his control, if it were found that he had failed to exercise due care in preventing, to the best of his ability, misconduct on their part, or had failed to report to the District Magistrate any illegal act committed by them which came to his notice. A new clause was added subsequently to the conditions prescribed in the revised notification, requiring every garden-sardar to furnish the local agent to whom he is accredited with a true and correct account of every person engaged by him and to correct any description, volunteered by any such labourer, which the sardar knows to be untrue or inaccurate. Local officers were also informed that any breach of this rule would make a sardar liable to be punished under clause (*b*) of section 174 of the Act.

Number of emigrants.

609. The number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Bengal, Madras, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces and the adjoining Native States, who embarked at Goalundo during the year, was 33,744 as compared with 56,791 in the preceding year. The decrease is attributed chiefly to the greater prosperity of the labouring classes on account of the good harvests generally obtained in the recruiting districts. Of these emigrants, 7,021 were recruited by licensed contractors and 25,447 by garden-sardars of all classes, while 1,276 emigrated from Native States. A peculiar feature of inland emigration during the year under review is the increase in the number of labourers despatched to Assam from Native States. Thus, while the numbers of emigrants recruited by contractors and by garden-sardars showed a decline of 46 and 29 per cent. respectively, the number of free labourers increased from 226 to 1,276.

Five thousand nine hundred and forty-three emigrants were registered in Bengal under Chapter III, and 2,141 under Chapter IV, as against 8,048 and 3,183, respectively, in the previous year. Of the former class of emigrants, 1,039 (as against 733 in the preceding year) were forwarded without being placed on contract, and of the latter class 813 (as against 839 in the year 1908-09). Ninety-four emigrants, as against 300 in the previous year, were recruited by special garden-sardars under section 90, while 11,925 unindentured emigrants were engaged by garden-sardars working under the control of approved associations, as against 25,774 in the year 1908-09.

Number of recruiting agents.

610. The numbers of licensed contractors and recruiters working during the year were 27 and 236, respectively, as against 22 and 294 in the previous year. The licenses of 6 contractors and 39 recruiters were cancelled during the year, for misconduct and irregularities. The total number of garden-sardars employed in this province was 8,507, as against 9,112 in the year 1908-09. Of these, 1,109 conducted their recruiting operations under the procedure laid down in Chapter IV, 60 held special permits under section 90, and the remaining 7,338 worked under the control of approved associations. As in the previous year the work of the local agents of these associations is reported to have been generally satisfactory, and no Superintendent of Emigration had occasion to cancel any local agent's license.

Criminal cases.

611. If the number of criminal cases is any indication of the extent to which abuses exist, it is satisfactory to observe that there was during the year a decrease of 35 per cent. in the number of such cases instituted in connection with recruitment operations within the province. It is certain that the decline is not wholly due either to reductions in the recruitment area or to the decrease in the number of labourers recruited. Nor can it be ascribed to diminished vigilance on the part of the local officers, who are prompt to report instances of abuses within their local jurisdictions and to punish illegalities that are brought to light. It has become a matter of general knowledge that labourers are brought by unlicensed recruiters from Native States and made over either to forwarding agents or to contractors licensed under the Act. The local officers are drawing the attention of the agents and contractors to their responsibilities in the matter, and are prepared to take more stringent measures if warnings are found to be ineffective. Steps are being taken also to suppress the practice of smuggling emigrants from areas closed to recruitment under Chapter III of the Act, to contractors' depôts situated outside these areas, where they are registered under false names and particulars.

It is, expected however, that such illegalities will steadily diminish, and this result will be accelerated if registering officers take pains to satisfy themselves, before sanctioning registration, that the emigrants concerned have been lawfully recruited within their respective jurisdictions. The attention of Commissioners of divisions is being drawn to the importance of this, and they are being requested to impress upon all registering officers their responsibilities in the matter.

Condition of depots and rest-houses.

612. The depôts, rest-houses and places of accommodation for emigrants were generally well maintained, and their sanitary condition was satisfactory.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

613. There was a falling off both in receipts and in expenditure incurred during the year in connection with the transport of labour to Assam, the figures being Rs. 10,870 and Rs. 20,860, respectively, as against Rs. 13,165 and Rs. 23,420 in the year 1908-09. The decrease in the receipts was due chiefly to the diminished number of emigrants registered under the Act.

Medical Institutions.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of the Charitable Dispensaries and Hospitals in Bengal for 1909. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population, and Public Health.]

Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries.

614. The small-pox wards for Indian patients at the Campbell Hospital were reconstructed during the year at a cost of Rs. 68,095. Owing to the outbreak of small-pox in Calcutta in epidemic form, extra accommodation was provided also at this hospital and temporary sheds were erected at Tiljalla for about three months at a cost of Rs. 8,782. There was a sudden and virulent outbreak of cholera among the nurses of the Presidency General Hospital, of whom no fewer than six succumbed. Three children also, who were under treatment in the hospital for other diseases, were attacked and died. A careful enquiry into the causes of the epidemic was held, and it was decided that the probable origin lay in some food supplied to the nurses in the hospital. As a result, resident surgeons are now required to inspect the food-supply of the hospital and to satisfy themselves as to the sanitary condition of the kitchen. The rules for the management of the hospital were revised. A report was received from a committee appointed in 1908, to consider the question of re-organizing the nursing arrangements at the PresidencyGeneral and Medical College Hospitals, and of placing them on a more satisfactory footing, and it was under the consideration of Government at the close of the year.

Numbers of patients and cases.

615. The number of hospitals and dispensaries at work in Calcutta was 17, the same as in previous year. 27,872 in-door patients were treated as against 28,456 in 1908, a decrease of 584. The decrease was due, in a large measure, to the fact that some of the wards of the Medical College Hospital were closed on account of quadrennial repairs, a circumstance by which alone 911 patients were excluded, and to the decision not to admit patients to the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipore, in excess of its capacity as heretofore. On the other hand, the Campbell Hospital where the accommodation was enlarged, showed a marked increase, viz., 1,193, caused chiefly by an epidemic of small-pox. The total number of out-door patients in 1909 was 308,980 as against 298,448 in 1908, an increase of 10,532, which may be regarded as the natural result of the growing popularity of the institutions, some of which have recently been greatly improved. The largest increase was in the Medical College Hospital, namely, 7,408. The number of surgical cases treated was 34,347 as against 33,368 last year. An interesting feature of 1909 was the large increase, viz., 3,097, or 5 per cent., in the number of female patients.

Diseases treated.

616. Of the more important diseases, cholera and bowel-complaints were less prevalent; but owing to a virulent outbreak of small-pox early in the year, which caused heavy mortality, admissions under this head were 678 against 258 in 1908. Plague cases also were more numerous and there were 148 patients suffering from this disease as against 92 in 1908. Cases of malarial fever dropped from 43,437 in 1908 to 41,213. 73 cases of beri-beri, of which 9

were fatal, were treated against 25 and 5 in 1908, while the disease classified as epidemic dropsy was responsible for 163 cases and 10 deaths, against 26 and 1, respectively, in the previous year. Captain E. W. D. Greig, I.M.S., was appointed to enquire into the causes of these last two diseases.

Income.

617. The total income of all the institutions in Calcutta excluding the police hospital and the dockyard dispensary, amounted to Rs. 14,74,587 against Rs. 18,24,139 in 1908, a decrease of Rs. 3,49,552, chiefly due to smaller grants from Government on account of building charges at the several hospitals. The subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 60,269 as against Rs. 1,20,759 in 1908, but the receipts of last year included contributions amounting to Rs. 90,000 from three Indian gentlemen, for the Indian paying patients blocks at the Medical College Hospital. Receipts from paying patients rose from Rs. 1,18,980 to Rs. 1,27,879, but those from the Port Dues Fund fell from Rs. 34,402 in 1908 to Rs. 25,824 in 1909, owing to fewer admissions of seamen.

Expenditure.

618. The total expenditure of the various hospitals was less than that of 1908 by Rs. 2,25,098 owing to the decrease in the charges for buildings and repairs, which amounted to only Rs. 4,80,743 as against Rs. 7,24,639 of the previous year. Contributions from Government bore a proportion of 62·58 only to the total expenditure, as against 70·47 in 1908.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Number of dispensaries.

619. The year opened with 572 dispensaries at work. 19 new dispensaries were started and 9 were closed, so that the number of working dispensaries on the list at the close of the year was 582, of which 70 were maintained entirely by Government, 276 by local funds, and 124 privately, and 47 were state-aided and 65 railway institutions. The floating dispensary at Cuttack continued to do good work, rendering medical relief to 5,332 patients as against 5,176 in 1908. A temporary floating dispensary on the Bhagirathi and Khari rivers was opened in 1909 by the District Board of Burdwan, which treated 775 patients in 78 days. The periodical deputation of medical officers of dispensaries to outlying markets, a departure made in eighteen districts in 1909, appears to be popular.

Number of patients.

620. The total number of house patients was 68,148 against 63,379 in 1908, showing an increase of 4,769, which is the more remarkable as the public health of the province was exceptionally good. The total number of out-door patients also showed a considerable increase, the figures being 4,421,925 against 3,965,101 in 1908, or an increase of 456,824, of which 409,512 occurred in old dispensaries. The increase both in the number of in-door and out-door patients is satisfactory evidence of the growth of public appreciation of medical charities.

Diseases treated.

621. As the year under review was healthy, the total death-rate among the general population fell from 38·66 per mille in 1908 to 30·40 per mille in 1909. But although the total mortality from fevers was less by 128,557, the number of patients suffering from fever who attended dispensaries rose from 970,051 in 1908 to 1,310,105. The number of cases treated in dispensaries in the districts of Patna, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, where there was a heavy mortality from this cause, showed an increase of 30,796, 36,577 and 170,666, respectively. The experiment of deputing Sub-Assistant Surgeons to distribute medical aid in malarious tracts of the Presidency division having proved successful in 1908, the measure was repeated in 1909 and its operations were extended beyond the Presidency division, viz., to the districts of Birbhum and Purnea. Nineteen Sub-Assistant Surgeons were so deputed during the year, against 17 in 1908 and they treated 71,875 patients. The Civil Surgeons sent favourable reports of their work and stated that the people appreciated the benevolence of Government in granting them this form of medical aid. There was a large increase, distributed over all the divisions of the province, in the number of cases of ear diseases treated in dispensaries, viz., 194,303 as against 166,771 in 1908. Bowel complaints (dysenteryand diarrhœa) gave 173,344 attendances against 177,043 in the preceding year. Plague was less prevalent than in 1908, causing 9,662 deaths against 14,169 in the previous

year, and the number of cases treated in hospitals was 399 against 597. There were sporadic cases of epidemic dropsy and beri-beri in certain districts of the province.

Income. 622. The total income of the Government, local fund and private aided dispensaries amounted to Rs. 10,39,933 against Rs. 10,04,661 in 1908, an increase of Rs. 35,272, due to the development of the main local sources of contribution. Grants from Government amounted to Rs. 1,53,267, or 11·75 per cent., as compared with Rs. 1,69,843 and 12·94 per cent., respectively, in 1908, a decrease of Rs. 16,576, to be attributed chiefly to a falling off in special grants for new buildings. The payments made by the Commissioners of divisions from grants placed at their disposal, amounted to Rs. 34,705 against 28,277 in the preceding year. Municipal contributions showed an increase of Rs. 17,400, a portion of which represented grants for the previous year drawn in 1909. District Boards paid Rs. 2,81,101 against Rs. 2,80,271 in 1908. Subscriptions paid by Europeans and Indians amounted to Rs. 2,35,853 against Rs. 2,08,561 in the previous year. Regular subscriptions to local fund dispensaries increased by Rs. 9,874.

Expenditure. 623. The total expenditure, excluding the amount invested, was Rs. 10,05,185 as against Rs. 10,04,037 in 1908. Although the number of in-patients was larger than in 1908, the cost of diet was less by Rs. 3,375, chiefly owing to the fall in the prices of food-grains. The number of in-patients who paid for their own food was 5,572 against 5,413 in 1908. The total amount spent on European and bazar medicines was Rs. 1,77,875 as compared with Rs. 1,70,344 in 1908.

Leper Asylums. 624. In 1909 3,453 lepers were treated in the eleven leper asylums in the province. The cost of the maintenance of these institutions was Rs. 1,25,837, of which Rs. 56,492 was paid by Government.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1909.]

Number of admissions. 625. The total number of admissions was 472 against 545 in 1908 when the number was the largest on record. Of these, 389 were patients and 83 relatives and friends.

Financial condition and free beds. 626. Donations amounting to Rs. 430 only were received against Rs. 611 in 1908, but there was a surplus of Rs. 1,067 at the end of the year. Two free beds were maintained as against three in 1908, the reduction being due to the closing of the Bella Cottage fund, which owed its existence to the donation of Mrs. Shrager. Besides the open free beds, four others were maintained for the benefit of convalescent patients from the Medical College and Presidency General Hospitals at a cost of Rs. 1,000. No European assistants employed in mercantile firms and banks sought admission into the Sanitarium in 1909 at the reduced rates sanctioned for them; but seven Government servants who were on receipt of pay of Rs. 400 per mensem or less, were admitted during the year on the specially reduced rates chargeable to this class of officers.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual returns of lunatic asylums in Bengal for 1909. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population, and Public health.]

Population, admissions and discharges. 627. There were 908 lunatics confined in asylums in Bengal at the end of the year, or 43 more than in 1908. The daily average number of patients was 717·72 males and 168·82 females, and the maximum number confined in any one night was 742 males and 177 females, while the accommodation available was for 761 males and 202 females, so that the asylums were not overcrowded.

Sickness and mortality. 628. Taken collectively the health statistics of the asylums showed a marked decrease in sickness, the total admissions to hospitals being 655 against 746 in 1908. The slight increase in the daily average sick, 115·72

against 101·31 in the previous year, was mainly due to the treatment of some chronic cases and to the placing of lunatics with slight temperatures on the sick list to prevent further development during the severe monsoon. The latter circumstance chiefly accounted for the increase in fever cases, which numbered 248 as against 149 in 1908. There were two cases of kala-azar, of which one ended fatally. The total mortality was 47 against 65 in 1908. The death-rate of 5·30 per cent., calculated upon the daily average strength, as against 7·63 in 1908, was strikingly low, and was much less than that in other provinces during the year.

629. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,58,711. There was a large reduction in the cost of superintendence, but the establishment charges increased a little. Owing to the fall in prices there was a total saving of Rs. 4,694 under the head of diet. The total charge for bazar and European medicine showed an increase of Rs. 725, chiefly attributable to the purchase of stores at Berhampore to meet emergent requirements and to the supply of new surgical instruments and operating and post-mortem gloves. The average cost per lunatic was Rs. 169-10-10 against Rs. 179-10-1 in the previous year. The amount realised from paying patients was Rs. 14,477 against Rs. 13,692 in 1908. The receipts at Bhowanipore and Berhampore were especially large owing to a greater number of patients of this class having been admitted during the year. Finance.

630. etailed plans and estimates of cost, amounting to Rs. 24,91,231, for the construction of a central lunatic asylum for Indian lunatics at Ranchi were prepared, but the project had to be kept in abeyance for financial reasons. The scheme for a central European lunatic asylum at the same place, which was drawn up by a special committee, was rejected by the Government of India as too expensive, aud is now under revision. Central asylum.

631. The revision of the rules under the Lunatic Asylums Act, mentioned in last year's reports, was completed before the close of the year. Lunatic asylum rules.

Sanitation.

[Forty-second Annual Report of Sanitary Commissioner, 1909.]

632. Many useful sanitary works were carried out during the year by Municipalities, District Boards, Government and private individuals at a total cost of Rs. 12,95,431 against Rs. 8,82,909 in the previous year. The following, each of which cost Rs. 5,000 or more, were the most important :— Sanitary works in towns and rural areas.

(1) The construction of masonry drains in the towns of Howrah (Rs. 1,01,206), Baranagar (Rs. 24,431), Tittaghar (Rs. 18,317), Garulia (Rs. 17,239), Budge-Budge (Rs. 12,486), Manicktola (Rs. 11,467), and Barasat (Rs. 8,682),

(2) The re-construction of the open drains in the town of Darjeeling (Rs. 15,295) and the construction of a reservoir by that Municipality at Senchal to hold 15,000,000 gallons of water (Rs. 10,164 up to date).

(3) The preparation of a scheme for a water-supply at Puri (Rs. 10,000).

(4) Drainage works for the Howrah Mills (Rs. 17,063).

(5) The construction of Hospital buildings at Azimganj (Rs. 9,706) and at Budge-Budge (Rs. 6,770).

(6) The acquisition of lands for the extension of the trenching grounds in the Manicktola (Rs. 5,297) and the Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 17,391) Municipalities.

(7) The construction of a new market called Seal's Bazar in Ward No. 1 of the South Dum-Dum Municipality by Sreemati Kusum Moni Dasi, administratrix of the estate of late Hira Lal Seal (Rs. 10,000).

633. There are altogether thirty-seven mills and factories with septic tank installations in this province, mostly situated on the banks of the Hooghly, Septic tank and latrines.

In every case the effluent is filtered and sterilised, and with few exceptions discharged into the river. Since the appointment of Mr. Dallas as Inspector of these installations considerable improvements have been effected in the condition of the latrines and every attempt is being made to keep the effluent up to the required standard of purity. All the installations were visited in turn by the Inspector and a large number of samples of the effluents were taken for examination at the laboratory attached to the Sanitary Department. Whenever they were found bad, advice was given as to how they might be improved. In September under the orders of Government, Major W. W. Clemesha, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, visited each of them, and submitted an exhaustive report on their working. On the whole the majority of the septic tanks were satisfactory, and it was noticed that, as a rule, the older the tank the better was the result. Since the close of the year instructions have been issued to the mill authorities concerned showing them how to bring about a further improvement in the existing arrangements for the filtration and sterilisation of the effluent.

Sanitary and medical precautions at fairs and festivals.

634. As usual the necessary sanitary and medical precautions were taken at all big fairs and religious festivals held during the year 1909. In Puri, in spite of the fact that satisfactory arrangements were made almost all the year round by the municipal and lodging-house authorities, cholera broke out during the car festival, which lasted for ten days and was attended by over 150,000 people, and caused ninety-one deaths amongst the pilgrims and ten amongst the residents. At the Dolejatra festival when over 40,000 people assembled there were only three deaths from this disease amongst pilgrims and one amongst the residents. The Chandanjatra festival lasted for twenty-one days and was attended by over 25,000 pilgrims, but it passed off uneventfully. The Sonepore fair, the biggest in the province, lasted from 21st to 30th November and was attended by about three hundred thousand people, but there were only four casual cases of cholera. There was no epidemic outbreak at the Ganga Sagar mela in the 24-Parganas district, which lasted for three days in January and was attended by over 30,000 people, the Caragola fair in the Purnea district or in any of the other big fairs in the province.

Vaccination.

[Report on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population, and Public Health.]

Small-pox and Vaccination.

635. The mortality due to small-pox has been steadily on the increase since 1905, and a further increase was observable in the year under report, the number of deaths being 38,609 as compared with 35,966 in the preceding year, and 21,108 the average of the years 1904—1908. In spite of the general increase in the death-rate from this disease, the mortality among infants and children, for the second year in succession, showed a decrease, clearly proving the value of the protection afforded by vaccination. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the year was 2,053,773, of which 185,188 were re-vaccinations, as against 2,019,531 original cases and 209,318 re-vaccinations in 1908-09. The system of realizing vaccinators' fees through the village panchayats has not been a success, in the absence of any legal power possessed by these bodies to enforce payment.

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during the year 1909.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

636. The year 1909 marked the first full period of twelve months during which the Poisons Act, I of 1904, was in force in the province, in accordance with the rules framed under it, and in all districts considerable effort seems to

have been made to make known the provisions of the Act and of the rules, and to ensure compliance with them by the public. The total number of licenses granted in the province was 261 under section 2, and 321 under section 4; but the figures are approximate only, since the statistics of applications and licenses granted under the two sections have not in all cases been differentiated, as should be done in future. Between different districts, however, the figures fluctuate remarkably. The total number of prosecutions under the Act instituted in the province was 72, of which 53 ended in conviction. In order to facilitate the detection of offences under the Act, orders were issued permitting the distribution of fines imposed under the Act, among the persons instrumental in the detection of the offences concerned.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 306—314.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1909-10. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Financial.

637. Although educational expenditure during the year under review considerably exceeded the amounts sanctioned in previous years, it was found impossible to continue the rate of increase in this grant which has been an outstanding feature of educational budgets during recent years. The total annual expenditure from provincial revenues has now reached half a crore of rupees. The number of pupils attending public institutions of all classes has increased in direct correspondence with the increase in the number of such institutions. It has been pointed out that an annual increase of merely 2 per cent., which does not represent an abnormal rate of expansion, would amount to approximately one lakh; and this, therefore, of itself constitutes a sufficient tax on the resources of the Local Government. It is true, however, that Bengal is gradually awakening to the necessity of more liberal private benefactions. Notwithstanding the check on educational expenditure, due to the strain on the provincial finances, there have been laudable efforts to improve educational methods, educational equipment and educational objects.

Controlling agencies.

638. The heavy cost of inspection as compared with the expenditure on the teaching staff is due to the fact, that the majority of teachers are not trained men and that inspecting officers must be instructors also. If this be kept in view, the present incidence of 17 per cent. on the total expenditure upon education from Provincial, District Board and Municipal funds does not appear to be excessive. The newly appointed Superintendent of Industries, Dr. Denning, joined his post on the 28th January 1910, and his services have proved invaluable in dealing with important questions arising in connection with technical and industrial matters. Proposals for improving the prospects, both of the Indian Educational Service and of the Provincial Educational Service, are under consideration.

Collegiate education.

639. There was a remarkable increase in the number of students from 4,655 in 1908-09 to 7,154 in 1909-10. An imperial grant was again received for expenditure on private colleges, and was distributed on the advice of the University of Calcutta. Almost the whole of the grant was devoted to the improvement of laboratories. It may be conceded that the more pressing wants in this respect have probably now been satisfied, and it is hoped that in future years the Syndicate will be able to assign a larger proportion of the funds to the provision of hostels. As it was decided not to remove the Presidency College to another site but to extend and to improve it, the construction of the new blocks for the physical laboratory was taken up with vigour. There was a distinct improvement in the work of the Ravenshaw College in Cuttack. The future of the Krishnagar College was examined by a committee specially appointed by Government for the purpose; and it has been decided that the college shall continue as a Government institution, subject to certain conditions as to local support. The Sanskrit College has now been raised to the status of a full college.

Secondary education.

640. The experiment of appointing an Indian Educational Service officer as head master of a zilla school was made at Ranchi, and has given most satisfactory results. There is a danger, however, in the introduction of the direct

method of teaching English, inasmuch as this method tends to impart fluency in English at the expense of the pupil's own vernacular which should always be the natural vehicle of his thoughts. It is satisfactory to notice many healthy signs in connection with high schools—in particular, a general anxiety to give full effect to the improvements prescribed by the Senate, and a general increase in the average income from private sources. It is not a matter for regret that the total number has decreased, because, as indicated in the report, it is desirable to weed out weak schools in order to invigorate the rest. The results of the new matriculation examination under the changed University regulations, judged by the percentage of passes, have been satisfactory. Great caution was exercised by head-masters in sending up pupils, and, in consequence, over three boys out of four who attended the examination came up to the prescribed standard. Government sympathises with the views of the Director of Public Instruction regarding the waning popularity of middle vernacular schools, and agrees with him that the indiscriminate conversion of such schools into middle English schools, the effect of which is to give pupils a smattering of English at the expense of their general education, is a matter for regret.

Primary education.

641. The statistics given by the Director of Public Instruction shew that there was an increase of nearly 30,000 boys and more than 5,000 girls in the number receiving primary education throughout the province. In Calcutta, a considerable advance has been made in the arrangements for primary education, as a result of the proposals of the committee convened by the Chairman of the Corporation in January 1910. The most important problems before Government in connection with primary education are, on the one hand, to institute training schools, to supply a competent inspecting staff and to frame a revised syllabus; on the other hand, to give sufficient remuneration to the *gurus*. The average contribution for an aided lower primary school with one teacher is Rs. 25·2 per annum, while Rs. 84 is considered the minimum which should be guaranteed to any *guru* who has passed through the training school. At the same time, there is no doubt that the system of payment to *gurus* of quarterly subsistence allowances, supplemented by deferred allowances at the end of the year, has given encouraging results. An important change was made by the revision of the syllabus up to Standard I in January 1910. The revised scheme has reduced the duration of the infant section from three to two years; and easy general literature, well printed and attractively illustrated, has taken the place of the dry science readers which the children formerly learnt by rote.

Training of teachers.

642. The training college in Calcutta was attended by only 18 students, all of whom were Government servants, and the Patna Training College had 12 students, of whom 6 were private teachers. It is interesting to learn that the college in Patna is becoming popular, and that several of the ex-students have obtained comparatively lucrative posts in high schools. A deterioration in the work of the training schools for vernacular masters has been noticed since 1907, and remedial measures have now been put in operation. The schools have been brought into contact with the training colleges in Calcutta and Patna, and their staffs are now recruited from teachers who have themselves had instruction in the art of teaching. During 1909-10, 102 students passed out with final certificates, but the supply is still below the demand. The *guru* training schools have entailed a large expenditure on the part of Government on account of both buildings and staff, larger than was originally anticipated. It is a matter for regret that, while 1,182 *gurus* left the schools during the year with certificates of proficiency, the number of *gurus* actually employed in schools of all classes increased by 585 only. The explanation seems to be the unremunerative character of the *guru's* work.

Professional and technical education.

643. During the year under review, special measures were taken to remodel the examination for the pleader's certificate of proficiency in survey; and at the same time a special course was arranged to furnish practical instruction in surveying. The work of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College was handicapped by the impending change owing to the proposals for the removal of the College to Ranchi. The negotiations for the transfer of the Sibpur site to the Port Commissioners of Calcutta were completed during the year. The scheme for furnishing mining instruction in local centres in the mining areas, underwent fresh developments. The Mining Instructor

resigned, and arrangements were since made for the appointment of four lecturers for the four centres at Sijua, Jheria, Charanpur and Dishergarh. The Government Weaving Institute at Serampore has now been in existence since January 1909. It started with thirty students in the higher classes and one weaver in the artisan class. At the end of the year 1909-10 there were forty-nine in the higher classes and forty-five in the artisan class from which it would appear that working weavers are now attracted to the institute. The result of the City and Guilds of London Examination held at Bombay was very creditable, as 8 out of 13 passed the examination in weaving, and 6 out of 12 in cotton spinning. It is proposed to establish a local centre for this examination in Bengal. At the Government Commercial Class Examination 108 candidates appeared, of whom 65 passed.

Female education.

644. Though much progress has been made within recent years in the education of Indian women and girls, yet over 95 girls out of 100 of school-going age are still outside the pale of the educational operations of Government. The serious loss in the number of pupils in the school attached to the Bethune College within the last two years deserves particular attention. On the other hand, the Ravenshaw Girls' School in Cuttack is in a flourishing condition, and from the existence of two high schools for girls at the head-quarters of Orissa there appears to be a demand for high education amongst Uriya girls. It is satisfactory to find that the number of Bihari girls at the Bankipore school is increasing. Various methods are employed in furnishing instruction in zenanas, the most popular system being house-to-house visits by lady teachers. The introduction of lace-making as a form of industrial education in female institutions has met with some success; but at the same time it is still to be shewn that the commodity can command a ready sale on considerations other than those of charity.

European education.

645. The European Education Code was to have come into force at the beginning of 1910; but on account of certain representations which were made in 1909, the promulgation of the code was suspended until an enquiry had been made into the objections which had been raised. The objections related principally to the grading of the schools; and, since the close of the year, Government has accepted the principle that there should be four grades instead of two, namely, Elementary, Higher Elementary, Secondary and Higher Secondary. It was found that the objections which had been made could be met by the modification of certain rules, and that no alterations in the principles of the code were required. It was proposed to bring the code, as further revised, into force from the year 1911. The suspension of the code did not lead to any paralysis of the ordinary daily work of the European schools, but on the contrary a distinct improvement in general efficiency was noticeable. The results of the Cambridge Senior Local Examination were satisfactory: 32 candidates out of 50 passed as compared with 20 out of 45 in the preceding year. The Inspector of European schools assumed the position of General Secretary in Bengal for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

Muhammadan education.

646. The manner in which Muhammadans have taken advantage of educational facilities is worthy of notice. The Muhammadan community form 17·1 per cent. of the total population, while 17 per cent. of the boys of that community are at school. The number of Muhammadan boys in educational institutions has increased by 5½ per cent., but there has been a falling off in the results of the public examinations. Special improvements in Muhammadan education are being undertaken in connection with Madrasas and Maktabs. The construction of the "Baker Hostel" for the accommodation of 100 students of Calcutta Colleges was completed after the close of the year. The old hostel known as the "Elliott Hostel" has accommodation for 132 inmates. The total cost was Rs. 1,61,588, out of which the Provincial Government contributed as much as Rs. 1,22,858. Amongst private subscriptions a sum of Rs. 26,000 was the generous gift of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca.

Physical and moral training.

647. The hostel system continues to expand. The number of hostels has increased from 445 to 534, of which 156 are under public management, and the number of inmates from 13,131 to 15,644. The private collegiate hostels at Bankura, Berhampur and Hazaribagh and the Scottish Churches College in Calcutta were administered with conspicuous success. The Calcutta mess scheme was also extended, a course which necessitated an increase in

the Government subsidy. Hostels attached to schools are, unfortunately, in a generally unsatisfactory condition, and many are condemned as defective in hygienic requirements. Physical exercise and games are said to be growing steadily in popular favour, but at the same time the healthy spirit of sportsmanship has yet in many instances to be developed. It is not sufficiently recognised in schools and colleges that play as well as work is capable of developing character and inculcating discipline.

Reformatory School.

[Annual Report on the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh for the year 1909: Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Changes in administration.

648. During the year under review, the Board of Management of the Reformatory School was dissolved and the administration was placed in the hands of the Superintendent with a committee of visitors to advise him. To encourage the boys in their general and industrial education, half-yearly examinations have been instituted at which prizes are awarded. The system of assisting boys by means of gratuities and regular allowances for three years after their release, has proved successful in helping them to lead honest lives.

Number admitted and discharged.

649. The number of boys admitted during the year was 134, being 9 more than in the previous year. The average daily population rose from 380 in 1908 to 454 in 1909: the accommodation available was taxed to the uttermost, and some boys had to be accommodated in the hospital. With a view to relieving the pressure, the Government of India have sanctioned the transfer of boys not belonging to Bengal to the reformatories of their own provinces where such exist. All the new admissions were carefully scrutinized and 13 boys were released. It has been ascertained from the judicial returns that during the year 482 youthful offenders were discharged on probation under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and 39 were discharged after admonition and made over to their guardians, under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act.

Health and conduct of inmates.

650. There were no deaths during the year under report, but there was an increase in the number of cases admitted to the hospital from 170 in 1908 to 299 in 1909 and there were seven cases of enteric fever. A scheme for a new supply of drinking water is at present under consideration, and steps have been taken to improve the present supply.

Discipline.

651. There was a remarkable increase in the number of punishments awarded, the number being 240 in 1909 compared with 57 in 1908. The increase is no doubt partly due to difficulties experienced in connection with the amalgamation of the Alipore and Hazaribagh Reformatories. The management of nearly 500 boys in one institution is more difficult than the management of a similar number divided between two separate institutions; but the explanations given are not entirely satisfactory, and the matter continues to engage the attention of Government.

Education.

652. The new system of classification for educational purposes introduced in 1908, has proved successful. The boys are divided into three classes: those under the age of 14 receive three hours of schooling each morning; those between the ages of 14 and 16 receive three hours each afternoon; and those over 16 years of age who are employed in industrial work throughout the day attend school for one hour in the evening. The results of the school examinations show that considerable progress has been made in education. The lower primary school was attended by 114 boys, of whom 52 passed the first year examination and 43 the final examination; while 19 failed. Of the 200 boys who appeared at the junior class examination, 165 passed—77 in the first and 88 in the second division. The boys were equally successful in the examinations in industries: 198 presented themselves for examination, and 162 or 81 per cent. passed. In the agricultural section 101 boys were examined, and 87 passed.

Sports and games.

653. In addition to the usual drill and gymnastics, the boys were encouraged in such games as cricket, hockey and football during recreation hours, and they competed successfully in local tournaments and athletic sports. An

examination in physical drill, gymnastics, and first-aid was held, at which 173 out of 175 boys were successful. The boys' band gave several performances in public.

Supervision over discharged boys.

654. The number of discharged boys who have done well has increased. Two Deputy Inspectors of Schools are specially deputed to visit and to help and encourage boys after their discharge, and the information concerning these cases is now fairly complete. This year only 15 cases were untraced, nine of which belong to other provinces. The statistics show an apparent increase in the boys who were re-convicted, (the figures being 81 in 1909 as against 58 in 1908); but the reason of this increase is that boys formerly untraced were, in many cases, found in jail. Out of 339 boys discharged during the last three years who received a training in agriculture or in trades or handicrafts, nearly half were found to be following the profession in which they had been trained, and 68 per cent. were found to be leading honest lives. With the supervision now exercised and the assistance and encouragement given in the way of gratuities and allowances to boys during the first three years after their discharge, a still further improvement may reasonably be anticipated.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Bengal Library.

655. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1909, under section 18 of Act XXV of 1867 as amended by Act X of 1890, was 3,837 as against 3,417 in 1908 and 2,995 in 1907, showing an increase of 12·29 per cent. over 1908 and 28·11 per cent. over 1907. The increase furnishes clear indication of increased literary activity during the past two years. 351 cases of evasion of the law of book-registration were reported to the Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal, during the year under report, resulting in the recovery of books in 119 cases only.

Subjects treated.

656. The new books and the magazines dealt with a great variety of subjects. It is interesting to note that more space was devoted to agriculture than to manufacturing enterprises and the idea seems to be gaining ground that it is in this direction and in the development of her rural industries that the economic regeneration of India is to be sought. The number of biographies and similar productions continues to increase, but interest still centres in the lives of the great religious reformers of the past and other pious persons. The most striking new play produced was *Sasti-Ki-Santi* by Babu G. C. Ghose which deals with the remarriage of Hindu widows, and a fairly successful attempt was made to adapt Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" into Bengali. The indigenous output of fiction consisted of one novel *Kumari* by Babu A. C. Das; and a few stories and short tales in magazines; but there was a mass of translations and adaptations from English and American novels, especially those of the detective and sensational type. Original historical works were mostly of purely local interest and those on a larger scale were translations. Among scientific productions were Bhasa-Tatva, a detailed work on the philology of Bengali, and a History of Hindu Chemistry by Dr. P. C. Ray.

657. A feature of the year, due to a widespread movement among all the castes of Bengal to improve their social status, was the increase in the number of publications dealing with questions of caste. These were chiefly concerned with attempts to prove the claims of lower castes to a place among the three twice-born castes of the ancient Aryans. There was no original poetry of particular merit, but a fine edition of Vidyapati's love poems was published under the auspices of the Sahitya Parishad of Calcutta. Such magazines and books as dealt with politics were hostile to Government, and during the year a pamphlet, entitled "An open letter to my countrymen" was published by Babu Arabinda Ghosh, which reiterated the ideal of the national party; but the political agitation no longer appears to engross the attention of the best thinkers and writers.

Working of Act XXV of 1867.

658. During the year, there were nine prosecutions instituted under the Act, as against eight in the previous year. Convictions were obtained in all cases.

659. There were 94 newspapers and 161 periodicals, published in Bengal on March 31st, 1910, as against 103 and 163, respectively, on the same date in the previous year. Of these 127 were written in Bengali, 65 in English, 26 in Hindi, and the rest in various languages. Among them were 16 quarterly, 144 monthly, 76 weekly, and 10 daily publications. The chief topics discussed were the political situation in Turkey and Persia; the condition of Indians in South Africa; the relations between the police and the people, particularly in connection with the police activity against sedition and political crime; the judgments of the courts in cases where Europeans are offenders and Indians are the aggrieved party; the treatment of under-trial "political" prisoners; the participation of schoolboys in political agitation; the Vice-Chancellor's Convocation speech asking students to eschew politics; the alleged indifference of Government to the improvement of the sanitation of rural areas; the alleged impolicy of further extending railways in India; the deportations; the constitutional reforms, and the question of separate representation for Musalmans; the Criminal Law Amendment Act; the Indian Factories Bill; the Calcutta Police Bill; the new Press Act; the steps taken by the various Indian Princes against sedition in their own States; the causes of famine; boycott; the political murders of Mr. Biswas, Sir W. Curzon-Wyllie and Khan Bahadur Shamsul Alum; and the split in the Indian National Congress. The Indian Press.

Literary Societies.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 321-322.

Arts and Sciences.

660. Dr. A. du Pré Denning, the newly appointed Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions, joined his post on 28th January 1910. He has no office staff for the present as distinct from that of the Director. His expert help will be invaluable in dealing with the various important questions that are daily arising in connection with technical and industrial matters, and in giving shape to and controlling the manifold schemes that are being constantly brought forward for the advancement of technical education and the industrial regeneration of the country. Appointment of an Industrial Expert.

661. On the 31st March of this year the number of students in the engineer department of the college was 92—15 less than on the 31st March 1909. The maximum strength of the apprentice department classes during the year was 234, against 230 in the previous year. Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

662. The examination results for the year were less satisfactory than usual. The percentages of passes for 1909 and the average percentages of the three previous years were as follows:—University Examinations—F. E. 25·5 per cent. and 56·2 per cent. respectively: B. E. 33·3 and 82·2: Sub-Overseer Examination 45 and 80: Overseer Examination 22 and 77·7. According to the Principal these results were due to (*i*) a general spirit of inattention to study throughout the college in all departments; (*ii*) the changes in the conduct of the examinations; and (*iii*) the setting of stiffer examination standards. The cost of the up-keep of the college during 1909-1910 was Rs. 2,60,671. In the previous year it was Rs. 2,30,911. During the year under report a governing body for the Sibpur College was appointed by Government in accordance with the requirements of the regulations of the Calcutta University, and held its first meeting on April 1910. Public Examination results.

663. There were 19 students in the mining classes—13 attending the first-year course, 6 the second-year course. There were two candidates for the diploma in mining, of whom one passed. The overcrowding of the students and the apparatus in this department has this session been removed to a great extent by the addition of an extra room, which is being used as a model or specimen room and will be useful as an overflow drawing office. Mining Classes in the Civil Engineering College.

Mining Instruction in the mining districts.

664. With this session the experimental five years expire. Government has been addressed for the continuance of the scheme for another two years. The examiners report a steady improvement in the quality of the work, but state that the sketches continue to be defective.

Bihar School of Engineering.

665. During the year under report the Bihar School of Engineering has been raised to the Upper Subordinate standard. This has enabled the Bihar School of Engineering to prepare students for the Upper Subordinate or 2nd grade Overseer standard; the higher certificates can be secured by the school students undergoing a further year of training on actual work of construction under an Executive or District Engineer after they have passed the final examination. More recently the school workshop has been recognized as a place of training for a few students seeking higher certificates. The institution is now also allowed to send up two candidates for the Public Works Department competition instead of one. The designation of the Head Master has been changed to "Principal," and the nominal control hitherto exercised by the Principal of the Patna College discontinued. The total number of students in August was 188 as compared with 180 in the last year. The expenditure on the school was Rs. 47,466-7-4 as compared with Rs. 44,842 in 1908-1909. The school maintained its lead as to percentage of passes among the premier institutions sending up candidates for the Joint Technical Examination Board's examinations. The percentage of Bihar School passes in the Overseer examination this year was 75, and in the Sub-Overseer examination 53.

Cuttack Survey School.

666. There were 102 students in this school, the same number as last year. At the Survey Final Examination 45 appeared and as many as 43 passed: 30 of the candidates were Uriyas and domiciled Bengalis; of these 28 passed. The expenditure on the school was Rs. 4,155, as against Rs. 4,706 in 1908-1909, and the amount received from fees was Rs. 1,279, against Rs. 1,343 in the previous year. The proposals for the reorganization of the Survey Schools at Cuttack and Patna have been approved by Government. The new scheme will be introduced when funds are available.

The Serampore Weaving Institute.

667. With the commencement of the new session in January 1910, 22 students, who had passed the first annual examination held in the previous December, were promoted to the second-year course, while 27 new students were admitted to the first-year course. There was thus a total of 49 in the higher classes. The numbers in the artisan classes are constantly fluctuating, but in June of this year there were 45 in attendance, thus proving that the actual weavers are also being attracted to the institute.

City and Guilds examination.

668. 14 students of this institute appeared at the City and Guilds Examination (London) held in Bombay. The result was very creditable, since 8 out of 13 passed the examination in cotton weaving and 6 out of 12 in cotton spinning. Proposals are under consideration for the establishment of a local centre for these examinations in Bengal.

Subordinate Outlying Weaving Schools.

669. One of the five outlying subordinate weaving schools sanctioned by Government as a part of the weaving instruction scheme was opened during the year under report. This is in Bihar, and is in charge of a teacher trained at the weaving institute. During the year a weaving chool was also established at Sambalpur in the interests of the Gondas of that district.

Technical schools.

670. The minor technical schools teach up to the Sub-Overseer standard of the Joint Technical Examination Board. Since the creation of this Board it has become necessary for the schools to fulfil certain requirements of the Board before they can secure the necessary affiliation for their students to appear at the Sub-Overseer Examination. During the year various small improvements have been made both in the matter of equipment and buildings.

Industrial education.

671. The position as a whole in regard to other forms of industrial education has not changed much. As stated in last year's report, the principal centres of industrial education at the present time are Kalimpong, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, certain Missions and Sibpur.

Government Commercial classes.

672. The number of pupils in the day class was 79; of these 17 were in the second year and 62 in the first year. The evening classes were attended by 170 students. The total who joined the classes was thus 249.

673. The Commercial Course Final and Special Examinations were as usual conducted by the Commercial Classes Advisory and Examination Board. The number of candidates examined was 108, of whom 68 passed. Examination results, &c.

674. The number of students on the rolls on 31st March 1910 was 227, a slight decrease on the numbers for the previous year. The decrease, however, is compensated for by a great improvement in the regularity of the students and their general attendance. It may be noted here that 2 out of the above number are from Madras, 1 from Mysore and 1 from Ceylon. During the year under report the internal arrangements of the school were reorganized, a complete new course of study drafted, and revised prospectus issued. Calcutta School of Art.

675. There is nothing new to add about the B and C classes in these schools. Out of 88 candidates who sat for the B Final Examination 44 passed, and out of the 6 candidates who sat for the C class examination 4 passed. The members of the B Final Examination Board submitted proposals during the year for the better conduct of the examination and for more systematised rules for admission to the classes. These proposals have since received the approval of the Governments of both Bengals. B & C class Examinations.

676. The condition of work at the special agricultural classes started experimentally at the five selected high schools for the imparting of agricultural instruction of a practical value to the students in the top classes of these schools continued to be the same as in last year. In January 1910 the Special Board (that is, the Director of Agriculture, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, and Mr. A. C. Dobbs, Principal and Professor of Agriculture at Sabour) visited each centre, and subsequently submitted a full report together with certain recommendations. Agricultural classes.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

677. The work of removing the capital and crowning figures of the Asoka pillars at Rampurwa, in the Champaran district, to the Imperial Museum at Calcutta, was completed. Preliminary arrangements were made for the removal of the shafts of the northern and southern pillars to the top of one of the low mounds in the vicinity and an iron cradle, costing Rs. 1,315, was manufactured for the purpose.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGE 325.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

678. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Bishop's Chaplain, the Registrar of the Diocese, 14 Chaplains of the Church of England, the Senior and Second Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 11 Ministers of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies, and the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., and 6 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for 1909. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Total of cases.

679. 6,646 articles were examined as against 6,525 in the preceding year, but the number was smaller than that of 1907, in which year the highest figures, viz. 7,473, were recorded.

Analyses.

680. The total number of analyses in the general department during the year was 2,232 against 2,487 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 255. 301 samples of kerosine-oil were examined against 337 in 1908, but all of them passed the test laid down under the Petroleum Act, VIII of 1899. Twenty-five samples of ghee were received; of these only six samples were of good quality, while the remaining nineteen were adulterated with fat or vegetable oils. Of the eighteen samples of milk analysed, twelve were found to be of good quality and six were diluted with water. 243 samples of cocaine were received from the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and various excise officers as against 125 in 1908. Of drinking water and other waters sent by various departments, 196 samples were analysed quantitatively as against 133 in the previous year. A single instance of bad water was sent, that from Dinapore sub-jail. The work of testing samples of water has been transferred since the close of the year from the Chemical Examiner's Department to the Sanitary Department.

Medico-legal cases.

681. 4,414 articles were investigated in 1909 as compared with 4,038 in the previous year. The increase was under all the heads except that of miscellaneous, where there was a decrease of only one case. The viscera of 775 individuals suspected to have been poisoned were examined as against 770 in 1908. Poison was detected in 310, or 40 per cent. as compared with 41·17 per cent. in the previous year. As usual the most common poison was opium, which was detected in 19·30 per cent. as compared with 21·11 per cent. in the preceding year. Arsenic was next in frequency with 7·86 per cent. of cases as compared with 8·09 per cent. in 1908. Besides those of human beings, the viscera of 502 horned cattle as against 381 in the preceding year, and of seven horses, six dogs and three fowls were examined for poison.

Veterinary Department.

Annual Report of the Bengal Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1909-1910.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

682. The number of students at the commencement of the session was 162, but 30 of these did not continue their studies throughout the year; of the balance, 48 came from Bengal, 16 from Bihar, 3 from Orissa, 53 from the Eastern Bengal and Assam, and 12 from other provinces. The results of the final examination were satisfactory, the percentage of passes being 86·48. The conduct and general health of the students were good. It has been arranged by the Medical Department that the college hostels shall in future be under the charge of the medical officer of the Eastern Bengal State Railway Hospital, which is nearer to the college than the Cossipore Hospital. During the year, it was found possible to complete the long-deferred project of building a new house for the Assistant Principal, and his former quarters have been converted into a sick bay where students will be nursed under the eye of the Principal. A football and cricket ground has been provided, and a gymnasium instructor engaged. Lack of funds again stopped progress with the larger scheme for the expansion of the institution.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

683. The administration of the Glanders and Farcy Act in Calcutta and its vicinity was conducted smoothly and efficiently. The equine population of Calcutta and vicinity including European horse-dealers' stables is estimated at 15,000, and the stables under the supervision of Colonel Raymond and his staff numbered about 4,000, all of which were inspected. In 54 stables, cases of glanders were detected. The total number of cases admitted to the contagious diseases hospital was 420. In 90 cases the animals were destroyed, in 8 cases they died in hospital; 315 animals were discharged, and 7 remained under observation at the close of the year. The system of compensating poor people whose horses are destroyed under the Glanders and Farcy Act, and of paying a small fee to persons who give information of outbreaks of diseases which come under the operations of the Act, continued to give satisfactory results. There was no case of friction with the owners of horses.

Infectious diseases in Calcutta.

684. With the sanction of the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation Colonel Raymond has undertaken the management of outbreaks of infectious disease amongst cattle in Calcutta, and this work is being carried on successfully by the staff. In Calcutta and suburbs 2,443 cattle were inoculated against rinderpest.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

685. This institution, which is now fully equipped with up-to-date instruments, is doing excellent work in diagnosing contagious and obscure diseases in cases admitted into the hospital, or from materials sent by veterinary officers from the mufassal.

Hospital.

686. During the year under report 5,680 cases were treated as compared with 5,144 during the previous year. The increase of 536 is satisfactory. It is a matter for satisfaction that there are indications that the competition of private practitioners in the town, many of whom are old college students, is affecting the number of cases treated at the hospital.

Civil Veterinary Department.

687. Better arrangements were made during the year for collecting information regarding deaths of animals from contagious diseases. The Inspector-General of Police issued orders that careful records of outbreaks should be kept at all thanas, and also that veterinary assistants should be permitted to inspect the registers, so that a check might be placed on the returns. The total mortality reported among horses and cattle was 386 and 17,645, respectively, as against 301 and 16,456 in the previous year. The increase in the number of deaths recorded is due more to these inspections, than to any actual increase in the number of outbreaks over that of previous years. Outside Calcutta and the suburbs, 12,549 cattle were protected against rinderpest by serum inoculation as compared with 11,659 in the previous year. Of these, only 93 animals died after inoculation. The number of inoculations would have been larger if the work had not been interrupted by the stoppage of the supply of serum from Mukteswar between September and December 1909.

688. No new dispensary was opened during the year. There were 27 dispensaries at the close of the previous year, of which one at Jessore was closed as the veterinary assistant was unable to undertake the supervision of it in addition to his district work. There has again been a considerable falling off in the number of patients admitted to the dispensaries. It is reported that the actual decrease was not nearly so great as the figures indicate, for a more accurate system of recording cases to a great extent explains the low figure of this year. But when all allowance has been made, it is clear that local residents do not sufficiently appreciate the benefits afforded by the veterinary dispensaries, or support them as they ought. Dispensaries.

689. The subordinate inspecting staff for mufassal work consists of five inspectors, who are in charge of the five circles into which the province has been divided. There are 62 (22 stationary and 40 itinerant) veterinary assistants in the province, and for the inspection of their work and other duties the staff of inspectors requires to be strengthened. Staff.

690. Since the close of the year, the scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate service has been sanctioned, so far as the veterinary assistants are concerned. Under it, the prospects open to these officers will be improved. Recruits will in future be appointed as members of a provincial service, which will be subject to the ordinary rules governing leave and pension applicable to Government servants of similar standing. It is hoped that eventually the province will be equipped with one itinerant veterinary assistant in each subdivision and one veterinary dispensary at each district and subdivisional head-quarters. Local bodies have been asked to consider their ability to work up gradually to this scale, which is by no means in excess of the real requirements of the province. Reorganization of subordinate service.

691. The Siripur Farm supplies bulls for breeding purposes to the tenants of the Hathwa Raj at various centres within the estate, with encouraging results. During the year a herd of native cattle consisting of 45 cows, 43 young stock and 4 bulls was made over to this department by the Inspector-General of Agriculture, India. These cattle have been sent to the Bettiah Estate where they will form the nucleus of a cattle farm on lines similar to those followed in the Siripur Farm. The herd of Siri cattle at Kalimpong now numbers 15 cow, and one bull. Breeding operations.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report by its Honorary Committee, 1909-1910.]

692. Besides the execution of annual repairs, the following improvements were made during the year:— Buildings.

(1) An enclosure was built for the tapirs.
(2) The peafowl pavilion was reconstructed.
(3) The paddocks and Reptile House were improved.
(4) Iron fencing was placed round the Rhino and Gayal enclosures.

693. The financial condition was exceptionally good. The receipts from visitors amounted to Rs. 36,088-4 against Rs. 35,929-12 of the previous year. Finance.

694. The following is a comparative statement of the number of visitors and receipts from them, for the last three years:— Statistics.

Year.	Number of visitors.	Receipts. Rs. A.
1907-08 ...	... 504,397	37,731 15
1908-09 ...	... 471,305	35,929 12
1909-10 ...	... 499,628	36,088 4

695. The authorities of the garden, at the instance of the Corporation of Calcutta, granted a free day once a month and 25,167 poor people availed themselves of the concession to visit the garden. In addition, a large number of children under four years of age, and school children attended by their teachers, were admitted free. On the day of the Fancy Fair about 12,000 people visited the garden. Free admission.

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